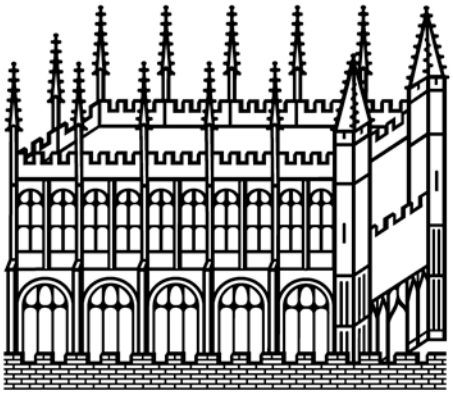

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PREFACE.

We all on us knows as Europe, Asur, Afriker, and Merryker 'ave all got crowns for their 'eads, escept Merryker, as is such a 'air-brain lot as no crowns wouldn't never stop on, if they 'ad 'em, as 'ave passed laws as there never shouldn't be none of them Old World ways, as they said was the cause of standin' armies, and riverlutions and sassinations, as 'ad a civil war afore they'd been a sentry old, and 'ad to 'ire the Germins and the Irish for to put down that war agin their own countrymen, as they calls Rebs, as was the better men of the two, and could fight better than Bull's Run, as always was a bullyin' lot, the same as Old Washintub as broke off from King George, and hung and persecuted them as wouldn't side with 'im, like a many as wanted to keep their hoaths, as they'd

took, like 'onest men, leastways, that was wot Brown were a-readin' to me out of the noosepaper about, as always did 'old as liberty all over the world were 'umbug.

I must say as I'm glad them men 'ave took to strikin' for 'igher wages over there, cos if all men's equal, why ever should one man be paid more for his day's work than another, and why ever don't that President get paid the same as a workin' man, and not be doin' the Lord Mare, as wot I understands by equality is all bein' the same. Not like them 'umbugs over in France, as talks about "We've La Republeek," and kicks out kings and queens, and then goes and lives in their pallises, and wears their clothes, and 'as carridges to ride in, and all sorts of finery, with sojers a-salutin' 'em like sovrins, as shows as it's all my eye about parties bein' equal.

It's all rubbish about republicken simplicity and economy, as there's been more robbery done by government in them free governments, than anywheres else; and then for them Merrykins to say as sassinations was the results of despotic rulers, as there wasn't Presidents for in their country, and then to 'ave two of their own cut off in cold blood, as didn't 'ort to 'ave went to the play of a Good Friday, tho' in course, he knowed no better, poor feller, and wouldn't 'ave went if any one 'ad told 'im; and as to avin' kings, and chiefs, and all that,

why, the werry beasts of the field 'as 'em, as is well beknown, even with lions, and likewise the vulture, as is a bird of pray, as will be on 'and over in Afriker the werry moment a ox drops in the desert, leastways, a lot on 'em comes a-flyin' down, as not one of 'em dursn't touch the hanimal, livin' or dead, till the king comes, and 'as 'is wack at 'im fust, as is in gen'ral the eye, as is wot the French calls the "bun boosh," as is the same with a carf's 'ead, as 'ave led to quarrels between two brothers, a-settin' down to 'arf a one, as in course 'ad only one eye, as the one as carved took it for 'isself, as brought on dreadful quarrels atween 'em, like Cain and Abel, as might 'ave 'ad as many carf's eads as they liked between 'em, but no brains, to 'ave quarrelled over sich a thing. Though brothers will quarrel, like old Jack Batey and his brother, as 'ad both been in the service, and would sit and swear at one another by the 'our together, and yet bear no mallis in their hearts, as couldn't be, thro' only a-meetin' of a Sunday evenin' over their pipes and grogs, as were sometimes more than they could carry 'ome comfortable, specially as one 'ad roomattics, and the other a timber-toe, as the sayin' is.

But, law bless me, talk of savidges, they're a deal more merciful over their wars, cos they kills one another out and out, and don't 'ave no prisoners

of war to torment, like them Merrykins, and don't go and burn the women and children in a cave, like the French and Inglish have done.

It's all rubbish a-talkin' about bein' civilized. We're all alike when we gets a-fightin'; and no doubt John Bright's quite right about puttin' of it down, but you might as well talk of stampin' out small-pox, or all sickness, and of doin' away with all sorts of wickedness and sins.

Of all the armies as I'd put down it's that Salvation Army rubbish, as is a reg'lar riot under the cloak of religion, a-throwin' young people together, a-rantin' and a-ravin', as is a deal wuss than any theayter or dancin' place either.

I never see sich a lot of tag-rag and bob-tail, as the sayin' is, and in course Queen Wictorier don't know nothink about, tho' the Archbishop of Canterberry did ort to, as I suppose we shall see go a-marchin' about the streets at the 'ead of 'em, and callin' 'isself a gin'ral a-leadin' of a mob.

It's all werry right and proper, no doubt, to get religion in among the tens of thousans as is livin' in London without none; but as Brown asked one on 'em, "What do they teach 'em as is right?" cos texts of Scripture is all werry well, the same as 'imms, as anyone can repeat, yet without bein' no better in their lives all the time.

I don't consider it a good plan for them mis-

shunaries over there where King Cetewayo comes from to give them denuded savidges a cow, or some sugar, if they'll learn a prayer, or take a track, or even a Bible, as ain't no more use to 'em than a cork-screw to a bear.

What I should like to see among them savidges is, white men as don't tell 'em lies and cheat 'em, or even murder 'em, so as to seize the land and cattle as they gets hold on, and then picks a quarrel and kills them, as they calls savidges for defendin' their own.

Why, they brort on that war not long ago with King Cetewayo's people thro' 'ticin' away their wives, as in course poor black beasts knows no better, and dursn't go back, cos they'd take and pitch 'em out like rubbish on a ant-hill, with their 'ands tied, and leave 'em for the ants to devour, as makes short work on 'em, I'm told.

No, savidges tho' they be, they won't 'ave no loose characters about the streets, with a many on 'em drunk, a-usin' foul langwidge, and insultin' decent people along the Strand, as is a disgrace to anybody's civilization. It's enuf to make a cat larf to 'ear parties talk about convertin' the 'eathen, and then go about among sich Christians as you'll fall in with among them colonial seaports, as is sinks of wice, as the sayin' is, and quite as bad as most of them sinkports as we've got at 'ome.

Not but wot there's good people as ever stepped out there; but then them poor niggers don't come into contracts with sech, but only a lot of low-lived ruffyans as goes up country to rob and plunder them natives, jest as if they 'adn't no right there, as is why a many on 'em is that wild as them Zulus, bein' that strong, and don't want Cetewayo to go back, a-knowin' as he can purtect his wives and all the other cattle as he's got sich lots on.

In course them Zulus is awful strong, and it's as well as they are, or they'd soon be made slaves on, as is the game as them Bores is up to, like the Dutch did used to be, and so was the English, for that matter, years ago, and would be agin if they'd 'arf a chance, as a-many on 'em treats Kaffirs shameful, in spite of the laws as 'ave been made to purtect 'em.

In course we must keep 'em in order, or we couldn't live among 'em, as didn't want us to come, but likes runnin' wild all over the place, as free as the hare when the 'ounds ain't arter 'im, and go wherever they pleases; as is in course their native land, tho' black, jest the same as Whitechapel or the Ratcliff 'Ighway might be to costers, as is where Mrs. Trimlin's fust 'usban's family lived and died for sentries, thro' bein' mostly sojers, tho' some took to the sea, as 'ad 'ooks and eyes and wooden legs all about the place, and the old grand-

mother, as died when I were a child at a 'underd and three, as makes a 'ole in two sentries, as were born in Queen Ann's time, as 'er own dorter 'ad been in Flanders with the regyment as 'er 'usban' belonged to, and remembered a battle where the English run away with a son of King George, as were called "The Butcher," with 'is tail between 'is legs, at their 'ead, and died in disgrace, as is the sign of a public 'ouse up agin the Marble Arch to this werry day; as 'is own father, King George the Second called 'im a coward when he come 'ome, afore all the court as they lived in, as liked Brentford and stale oysters, and were grandfather to old King George, as Queen Wictorier is own grand-dorter to, and rained sixty years, as, bless 'er royal 'art, let's 'ope as she may rain twice as long, tho' she'd be gettin' on if she did, as I see a fottygraft on the other day, as do not do 'er justice, for she don't look 'er age, and I can't believe 'ardly to be the pale young lady in ringlets as I've see over and over agin, all about Kensin'ton, when a gal myself; leastways long afore I were married, or even engaged, and was only two-and-twenty when my Joe were born, as were 'er Coronation Day, so always 'as a merry peal on 'is birthday, all over the world, the same as if he were Prince of Oringe, as is out in South Afriker now, and doin' well, I'm thankful to say, and friends with all them natives,

as he's a-carryin' on trade with in blankets and iron pots for to cook their mealies in, as he gives 'em a 'igh character for bein' 'onest and never tellin' no lies, and decent in their ways, tho' not a stitch of clothes to their backs, as don't give no shock to the naked eye, thro' bein' black.

It often puzzles me thinkin' over all manner, 'ow they come to be black, as is fine-limbed men, and 'as fine legs as you'd see in a day's walk, as I suppose must 'ave got black by degrees, the same as anything as is scorched, or a loaf as is left too long in a quick ovin, as I likes myself.

They do say as charcoal is 'olesome, and them blacks is wonderful 'ealthy; not if they gets measles or small-pox, or anythink like that, as they ketches from us. Leastways my Joe, as 'ave went up to settle among 'em, not as I means he's a-goin' to marry into a black family, thro' 'avin' of a wife of 'is own, with four sons and two dorters, and I'm sure if one of them was to let theirselves down to a party-coloured marridge, it would break my 'art. Not but wot the 'art might be in the right place, tho' black as any cherry; the same as Cetewayo, as in course considers 'isself a king, and so he is; and in course bein' a king, with no Parlymints or Gladstins to bother 'im, he jest does as he pleases.

I should like to see William Hewitt a-darin' to go down to Winser and talk to Cetewayo, why, he'd

take and spear 'im with a assyguy agin one of 'is own trees, jest the same as you nails a stoat or a 'awk to a barn-door, as is proper treatment for sich wermin; and as to fightin', I 'eard hofficers and gentlemen aboard the steamer say as 'ad been in battle with 'im, he was a sojer and man of 'oner, and not a mere denuded savidge.

I must say as them Zulus is werry perlite, tho' likewise Kaffirs, as treated me jest as tho' I'd been Queen Wictorier a-comin' aboard the steamer, for they all give a shout, as I were told by a young gent aboard as they said I were the finest mother of cows, as they meant a speciment of the 'uman race, as ever they'd see.

It give me quite a turn the way as they looked at me, for I were a-feared as they might take me for a fieldmale misshunary, and 'tice me ashore and eat me. Not as I should have thort of goin' ashore without Brown, as is 'ow them Zulu parties 'ave went rong, thro' a-leavin' their 'usbans, as 'ave led to words and murders, them Zulu 'usbans bein' that partikler, and not like a party as I knowed of over in Indier, as when 'is wife run away with a subaltin said as he were werry glad on it.

When a couple of them Zulu gals cut off with some Englishmen, the 'usbans come arter 'em and give 'em sich a jacketin', as led to war breakin' out twixt the Zulus and the English, as nobody couldn't

say as the Zulus wasn't right and the English all rong. But I'm sure if our Joe were to go and set up among them savidges for a chief, and get land, and wives, and cattle, and live like a beast of the field, as some 'ave dun, I'd disown 'im. Cos in course them Zulus don't know no better, as 'ave got lots of wives, as they looks on as so much cattle, and brings up their children as slaves, as some is doin', as is as white and English as I am, and downright disgrace to any white man, let alone a Cristshun.

It certingly is a pity as nobody don't seem to care about them misshunaries, as did ort to be the best of all; but some'ow they don't seem to 'it it, and them natives as they conwerts ain't any ornymints to their religion.

It's my opinion as the Salvation Army did ort to go over there, and march up among them tribes, and see what they can do with 'em, partikler now as they've got the Archbishop of Canterberry at their 'ead, as in course they'd obey in Afriker. It may be as some of them Salvation Army means well, and wants misshunary work, so let 'em go and try the Zulus.

I must say them blacks often give me the jumps in comin' on 'em suddin, as always looks like bein' made of injyrubber; and as to King Cetewayo, as sounds like Kitchywhyo, no doubt he's a amiable man in the main, as a wisit to England will do 'im

good, cos he's 'eard a good deal about English wertue, and if he reads the papers, he'll see 'ow really good and moral we are.

I do 'ope as nobody won't be a pisonin' of 'is mind agin us, in sayin' as he've as much right to come to Ingland, as we 'ave to go to Afriker, cos in course he must come and take it away from us if he wanted change of air, or a fresh breed of bullocks, or some place for to send 'is family to, as 'ad outgrowed 'is own place, and if they was to come and call us a lot of taller-face beggars, and 'it us about and make slaves on us, by teachin' us to drink, so as to rob us, we shouldn't like it, partikler if they wanted to conwert us to Mumbo Jumbo religion, tho' they none of 'em couldn't tell us what it meant, cos they couldn't agree over it theirselves, and wanted to make us 'ave lots of wives, and go about dressed in leaves and feathers, and would make us live in 'uts, and take away our 'orses and carridges, and tell us it was all for our goods as they come, why, we shouldn't quite see it, and if we didn't, they'd say we was too numerous, and was a standin' menace to them, so they'd take and kill us. I must say as I 'eard parties talk in a place as they call Durbin, about esterminatin' natives as if they was rats.

I remember askin' one pious old party whether he thought as the Almighty had created them

blacks for the whites to murder, as told me that they must be improved off the face of the earth, for they was wretches, and as to langwidge, it was too horful.

"Well," I says, "I think if you'll come along with me any Saturday night to any part of London you'll 'ear langwidge enuf as'll make you want to improve your own people off the face of everythink." I were a-sayin' one day as there's a werry good law agin lettin' them niggers 'ave sperrits to drink as drives 'em mad; as made Melia Larkins, as is a teatotaler, come down on me like a load of bricks, a-sayin', "I thought, Mrs. Brown, as you didn't 'old with closin' public-'ouses of a Sunday."

I says, "And so I am."

"Then," says she, "'ow about the niggers?"

I says, "Them laws out there is made agin all niggers gettin' drink, but closin' public-ouses at 'ome is only agin the poor man gettin' 'is licker, while the rich one can 'ave it at 'ome, or go to 'is club; besides," I says, "nobody can't prove as sperrits drives every poor man mad, like it do them coloured parties, cos there's millions upon millions as takes a fair share of drink and thrives on it, as is true temperance; and as to that pledge, I partly agrees with that Bishop as 'ave jest spoke out agin it, as is a reglar mockery in a many cases, tho' it might be useful to some, the same

as a muzzle to a dog as will snap, or a straight wescut to them as is apt to go mad; besides, we don't consider them savidges uses their reason, and we ain't a-goin' to treat ourselves jest as if we was as bad as them."

I do 'ope as they'll be werry partikler with King Cetewayo when he gets 'ere, and not let 'im live in no low naybour'ood, cos he's sharp enuf to find out as we ain't no better than our naybours, and preaps a deal wuss.

I do 'ope as they won't read the papers to 'im, nor yet even menshun Ireland to 'im, and let 'im think as it's in the South Seas; cos 'owever bad the English may 'ave treated the Hirish, that's no escuse for all this cold-blooded murder, as is a disgrace to a Christshun country, and makes any one prefer 'eathens; and as to that Parlymint, I do 'ope as he won't be took to the Strangers' Gallery, as he'd advise 'em to come over to Afriker and see one of 'is councils, as would be a lesson to 'em, and if they was to try to keep 'im up all night, he'd precious soon send some of them to bed with their 'eads under their arms, as would stop their jaws.

In course, it won't never do to let Cetewayo go agin, as were took pris'ner the werry day as we landed at Durbin, tho' they do say as he's one to stick to 'is word, as is a deal more than I should say

of a many English as lives out there, as a many on 'em was werry civil to me.

One thing I will say, as is that if them Bishops and Archdeakins over there wants to conwert the 'eathen, they'd better leave off a-quarrellin' and eskymoonicatin' one another; and one party told me as there was a Bishop out there as wasn't even a Christshun, and didn't believe in Nore's ark, nor yet Jonas and the whale, as I considers only showin' of 'is ignorance, cos in course you can't read about them things the same as you would about a woyage round the world, nor even a railway accident, as is often werry much exaggerated, just to sell the noosepaper, partikler of a Sunday evenin', when they ain't gone off quick enuf in the mornin'.

In course, any one can say as he don't believe anything as he don't understand, but that don't prove nothink, cos 'ow does he know as it mightn't be true, jest the same as steam, as in course not even Oliver Crumwell wouldn't never 'ave believed could come to pass any more than 'is 'ead bein' bandied about, like a 'Gipshun mummy, and nobody a-knowin' as it's 'is right one, arter being berried like a king in Westminster Abbey, and then tore out of 'is grave, and 'ung on a gibbet at the top of Hedgwar Road, as did use to be fields, as didn't ort to 'ave cut off King Charles' 'ead, and then wouldn't never 'ave come to know as two can play

at that. I'm sure if he was to come back along with King Charles, neither on 'em wouldn't know Cherrin' Cross, nor yet 'is own statew, with the railin's took down, as I wonders whether they dressed him up with oak-apples once a year, to show as he were 'id in a oak, as saved 'is life; and I'm sure Cetewayo weren't never more of a tyrant, cos if it's your principles for to kill your henemies, it's the same whether it's one or ten thousan', and as to liberty, a nice notion of liberty them pious parties 'ad got; but as Brown says, King Charles didn't ort to 'ave told lies, as is all werry well for blackguards, as is the way they always gets out of a mess, but it won't do for a gentleman, let alone a King, as ain't a Bradlor, as in course you wouldn't believe on 'is oath, as would larf at you if you did for bein' such a fool.

I do 'ope as Cetewayo will stop long enuf to see the Derby Day, as will give 'im a notion as we've got fightin' men enuf to turn out; besides, he'll feel quite at 'ome when he sees the niggers, and 'ears 'em sing to the banjo that lovely about puttin' up the shetters cos little Willie's dead, as will come 'ome to 'im, not as they've got any shetters over there, but lots of little Willies, as in course dies the same all the world over, as I suppose them niggers goes into mournin' by leavin' off all their clothes, as is werry deep mournin', deeper than crape and

bombazeen, as did used to be wore when I were a gal, and wusted stockin's as tickled your legs, as was the fust time as ever I wore garters for a little brother of mine, as measles carried off, and my own grandmother put me into the same mournin' as she'd wore fifty years afore, as weren't no joke.

Not as I 'olds with all that finery as is wore now-a-days for mournin', as aint no more like a widder than a weddin', with them flyaway caps, as Brown says looks werry like the broom at the mast-'ead, partikler where widders is full of their fun, like Mrs. Pendleton, as kep' the "Green Dragon," and were a-servin' in the bar, partakin' likewise of 'er best cream and noyeau the werry same night as he'd been laid in the semmyterry, with the brewer's collector as she married within three months, as didn't live a twelvemonth thro' a-lappin' that constant and over-parshul to compounds, as she were a great 'and at 'erself, as 'er 'ome-made oringe brandy were preferred to Maryskeeno, or even noyeau, as was pressic acid, as a overdose on is short work, and not the same sufferin' as strick-neen, as doubles you up with agony the same as cramps, as was werry nigh Mrs. Bulpit's death, and made 'er break the pledge in the middle of the night a-flyin' to the brandy-bottle, as she woke up Bulpit thro' droppin' of it, as slipped thro' her

fingers in liftin', as made 'im call 'er a 'umbug, and drunk 'isself to death in two years, jest as he were a-goin' to take the pledge to please 'er, as shows wot she must 'ave suffered in the way of cramps, as 'er screams woke up the minister, as were a total abstainer, a-sleepin' in the next room, and come a-rushin' in thinkin' it were murder, as 'ad a fit thro' smellin' the sperrits so close, and Bulpit brot 'im to by pourin' brandy down 'is throat, a-layin' in a state of stincopee, as the doctors called it, as never espected to see 'im open 'is eyes agin, and 'ad to drink brandy to 'is dyin' day, even in the night when 'is 'eart would stop beatin' for all the world like a watch as aint been wound up, as can't 'appen now as they're keyless, leastways not thro' forgettin' of it or 'avin' of it on your bunch and left the lot behind, the same as your spectacles, as is things as savidges don't never use thro' not 'avin' no books to read, and if they 'ad wouldn't 'ave no shelves to put 'em on, as seems quite as 'appy without 'em; and as to noosepapers don't know wot they means, escept when there's somethink done up in 'em the same as almins and raisins, as Mrs. Telfer took for a present to King Cetewayo in Cape Coast Castle, as was built by the Dutch, as he were a-settin' on the ramparts in nothink but a blanket the fust time as I see 'im as far as the eye can reach, tho' arter that he were

dressed in a suit of "'and me downs," as is sent from Whitechapel to the Cape, as he didn't look so well in, with a billycock 'at, as in my opinion he look better in 'is nat'ral black stuff, as is wot some parties call bein' as naked as the eye always is escept with a black patch over it, as often 'appens to them as 'ave been in the army, the same as Lord Nelson as lost 'is at the battle of the Nile, tho' it come in quite useful in usin' the tellyscope when he didn't want to see a signal, as is 'ow he won the battle as he called 'is one-eye wictory up to the werry last, as he died in the arms on with, "'Twas in Trafalgar's Bay" on 'is espirin' lips. Poor dear feller!

I must say as I'm glad as King Cetewayo is a-comin', cos in course when fust cort he would not 'ave been fit to come and wisit Queen Wictorier, cos of 'is wild harem-scarem ways with 'ardly a rag to 'is back, and as to them fieldmales as is with 'im, only a blanket as won't keep over their shoulders, and no more ashamed of bein' in that state than if they was in dimons and feathers; as would give Princess Beetrice a orful turn in goin' to meet 'em at the railway, as did ort to be brort in bathin' machines, and only put their faces to the winder.

As to makin' of theirselves at home at Buckinam Pallis or Winsor Castle, it's only the stables wot they're fit for, leastways so I've 'eard as is like the animals in their ways of life, as would feel more

comfortable if they was turned out to grass, only they'd feel it chilly of a night, no doubt, as a bad cold might settle on 'em, thro' not bein' used to pocket'ankerchers, nor nothink like that, as is like the bullock as perspires thro' the mouth the same as a dog.

It won't do for to put 'em in the Jewlogical Gardins, tho' they'd feel more at 'ome there, cos if they was treated like wild beasts they'd feel 'urt, and Queen Wictorier is too much the lady to ask anyone on a wisit, and then make a wild beast show on 'em. Besides, bless your 'art, King Cetewayo he's sharp enuf to twig the little game, as would let fly in a brace of shakes a couple of his assyguys and wake the British public up, a-standin' a-starin' at 'im with their mouths, tho' in general afferble, partikler with raisins, as he'll suck by the 'our together.

Not as I'd trust 'im at dessert, cos if he see anyone else take a raisin, or anythink as he liked, he'd up and fetch 'em such a swipe as'd wake 'em up, specially any of them ladies as 'ad low dresses on, as he'd give a slap to, the same as he done to 'is own good ladies, as was bare-backed in the lowest degree.

Oh! he's quite the noble savidge is Cetewayo, and can tell when parties wants to take 'im in, as is why he's a-comin' to see Queen Wictorier 'erself,

and wot he promises he'll stick to, jest the same as 'er, thro' well a-knowin' 'ow he's been dun, wot with their blue books and lies, so he says, "Oh! bother, let me see the great White Mother, as 'ates lies the same as me." So he'll come and be satisfied, and go 'ome agin and tell 'is people as it's all right, and if Queen Wictorier will keep 'er men in order, he'll keep is'n, and then there won't be no more rows, and we shall live at peace for 'is life time, not as them civilized parties as makes treaties ever means to keep 'em any longer than suits 'em, for 'ow about savidges keepin' their words, as there's a Bishop over there, as I 'eard 'im say with 'is own lips as Cetewayo were a man of 'oner, and as to 'is bein' cruel, he wasn't no more so than Queen Wictorier in 'angin' Lamson would be, and 'ow that wenerable old Bright ever could let 'em make 'im Duchess of Lancaster, as he 'olds for the Queen, when capital punishments was bein' carried out, as 'im and a many other old ladies thinks as sinful as war and sojers, and as to 'im a-sayin' as he thort as the fleets was there only like perlice to keep order, wot's he got to say when the perlice 'as to use their truncheons and break parties' 'eads, or even fire on 'em, as they've been forced to in Ireland, as Mr. Bright did ort to 'ave walked 'is chalks long ago, and not been a party to old Gladstin's goin's on.

It will be a orful shock to King Cetewayo, when he lands, to 'ear as 'is friend 'ave went out of office now as he've jest found out about his conshence, as must 'ave been a-prickin' of 'im all over for many a year.

I must say as I do think as it's a pity, as they was a-goin' to bring King Cetewayo 'ome, as they didn't start with 'im a little sooner by the land of Egypt, and bring 'im thro' the Sewage Canal afore it were all blowed out of the water, and then he'd 'ave seen wot old England's woodin walls can do, as would 'ave made 'im stare, partikler when he 'eard they was that wiolent as they'd been and blowed John Bright out of 'is seat in the cab as he were in, givin' a lift to William Hewitt and others, thro' 'is religion, as 'ave just woke 'im up.

In course Cetewayo would nat'rally ask 'ow it come as John Bright could keep 'is seat while sojers and sailors was kep' ready for to kill them Injins, with parties a-bein' slortered all over the world, cos, if sincere, he never could allow a standin' army or a sailin' navy bein' kep' up, as was as much agin 'is principles any time as now; but didn't never come 'ome to 'im till he's threescore years, and wants to be that 'evanly amiable as butter wouldn't melt in 'is mouth, as thinks as speakin' mild like, and a-lookin' 'umble, is true religion; and as Brown were a-sayin' is all these

people's ignorance, as gets 'old of a Bible as they don't understand, and pretends as they're inspired.

In course it's all ignorance, cos in course it's jest as wicked not to give a man your coat as 'ave took away your cloak, as it is to go to war, or to refuse to lend anybody money whether he's a thief or not, and spendin' it on wickedness.

It's all sich rubbish as makes parties turn religion into redicule, like a fellow as were a-talkin' a lot of foolishness down the Mile End Road, a-preachin' one Sunday evenin', as Joe Barnes' eldest, as is seventeen, come in a-chaffin' me over, and says, "Grandmother, the Bible's full of rubbish."

I says, "My good boy, you've your head full of rubbish to dare to talk like that to me."

He says, "I've got my reason, and I've 'ad a edication as shows me as I didn't ort to be tied down in my belief."

"Yes," I says, "you've 'ad edication as shows you ought to be tied up, and proves 'ow true it is as a little learning 's a dangerous thing."

Brown he come in jest then, as always listens to that boy, cos he ain't one to snub nobody.

He says, "Ah, Joe! I'm glad to hear as you've employed your time so well in studyin' the Scriptures."

"Well, grandfather," says the boy, "Ive read my Bible werry reg'lar, and I cant' swaller it."

Says Brown, "I dare say not, as must 'ave found the 'Ebrer and the Greek tough work to get into your 'ead."

"Oh!" says the boy, "I don't know no 'Ebrer, nor yet Greek."

"Then," says Brown, "'ow can you make anythink out of the Bible more than your naybours? Cos 'ow do you know as it ain't been tampered with and altered, or words left out as would change all the sense, as is why it's bein' revised."

So in course the boy looked foolish, and didn't come no more of that rubbish, neither to 'is grandfather nor yet to me.

As to John Bright, he in course is quite consistent with 'is religion, as don't pay no taxes, and kicks the water-rate downstairs, and gives all 'is goods to the poor, as is all bein' consistent, but will make King Cetewayo stare when he comes to know more about 'ow people act up to the Bible, and specially them as pertends to understand it so well as to teach others, as is a book as requires a deal of learnin', and 'ours of study along with prayer, as is 'ow some 'as passed their lives a-hopin' for to learn out of it 'ow to live, and not get a-quarrelin' and a-cavillin' over it, as ain't respectful, any more than everyone a-differin' over its meanin', and each one a-sayin' as he's right, as is wot all on 'em acts up to, from the Archbishop of Canterberry to Spurgin.

In course everyone 'as a right to 'is opinion, and nobody didn't ought to interfere with 'is naybour; but flesh and blood can't stand 'earin' rubbish talked, as is wot gives sich parties as Bradlor a chance, as says he's a Atheist, but can't prove as there's no God any more than parties as believes can prove as there is one, cos, as Brown says, it ain't like a sum or any thing as you can prove by figgers; and, above all, I can't abear to 'ear boys talk rubbish any more than I can bear to see a parcel of sluts of gals a-trapesin' about after them Salvation Armies, as is bringin' religion into reg'lar contemp', as in course did ort to be 'onered by them as don't purfess none, for the good as it's made others do; cos in course there ain't nothink more easy than to be a 'ippercrit. But true religion's like pure gold, and is soon told by the weight more than by the look and the ring, as may both be imitated that close as to take parties in.

MRS. BROWN AND KING CETEWAYO.

WHEN Brown fust menshuned to me as he were a-goin' over to Afriker, and might get as far as Sydney in Horsetrailier, as is a new world, all thro' there bein' a exybishun there, the same as Paris and 'Igh Park, I says, "Well, I do think at your time of life, Brown, you might be a-thinkin' of makin' of your life 'appy in this here Old World, without a-botherin' of your 'ead about any other, cos we ain't neither on us chickens," as the sayin' is.

"Why," he says, "as to that, there ain't no occasions for you to go."

I says, "Mr. Brown" (and I looks at 'im solim), "remember as I've swore at the halter for to forsake all others, and stick to you till death us do part; and I ain't a-goin' for to purgery myself at this period. Why," I says, "do you think as I'd let you go alone among forriners, as I considers a deceitful race, the same as Tilda Jones's 'usban',

as I never trusted, thro' bein' a French polisher, as ruined my loo-table, thro' a-puttin' on it some of 'is rubbish of polish, as drored it up in the middle, bulgin' up like a 'uman blister, as my own granmother left me ?"

"Oh !" says Brown, "bother your granmother's blister."

I says, "Mr. Brown, if you wants to desert your lorful wife, and go off like young Trotter, do so; but don't jeer at my granmother, as 'ave nussed some of the fust ladies in the land with their suns and 'airs, as lived to be Lord Mares, and one a real barrownite."

"Now," says Brown, "look here, I don't want to 'ave one of your yarns over your granmother nor the rest of the Royal Family, as you'll run me into if I let's you go on; but jest tell me whether you means goin' over arf the world or not ?"

"I say I most certingly will, cos arter goin' as far as Merryker, as I 'ave done, why all the rest must be a mere flea-bite, as the sayin' is."

Brown, he bust out a-larfin', and says, "Why, you bloomin' hold hinnercent, Horsetrailier is jest five times as far as Merryker, as will take us six weeks from shore to shore."

I says, "Well, it don't matter, go I will, if it's all the world over."

Says Brown, "All right, old gal, we starts in a

fortnight, so pack up your rags, and get your sea legs on."

When I told Miss Pilkinton as I were a-goin' to them parts she were taken aback, and thro' knowin' all about jograffy begun for to tell me as them parts was called the antiperthies. I says, "I am sorry for that, cos I don't 'old with them antiperthesies, as is as bad as family rows, tho' I 'ave knowed parties as couldn't abear the sight of a cat, and a aunt of mine reg'lar fainted at the smell of pickled unyons, and some can't abear rats, nor yet black beedles; and for my part the sight of a black man turns my werry blood, thro' bein' frightened under the month by a drunken nigger, as wanted to kiss my mother, as my father gave 'im sich a 'ot un, as tapped 'is clarit, as the sayin is, as reg'lar deluged mother and child.

"Law," says Miss Pilkinton, "I don't mean them sort of things, but antiperdees, as means upsides down, as is what Horsetrailier 'ave been proved to be to 'old England; so as when we're asleep they're wideawake there, and a-walkin' about under us with their feet turned to our feet."

"Why," I says, "then they must be a-walkin' as the flies does on the sealin', and 'ow they can do it I can't think, unless they 'as their things made the rong way uppermost, with a net under 'em for fear as they should fall like ackrebats."

"Well," says Miss Pilkinton, "I don't know about that, but I know a aunt of mine is gone over there, and I am sure she wouldn't walk on 'er 'ead, and 'er 'usband couldn't, for he's as bald as a new-born babe; but," she says, "I'll show you a globe as I've got up stairs as will prove as everybody in Horsetrailier must be upside down if anywhere about there."

So she fetches that globe, as were fixed in a little wooden frame like, and rewolwed on its own haxes—as Miss Pilkinton called it.

So she points out England, and then gives the globe a twist to show me Horsetrailier, as was quite the other side.

So I says, "Bless my 'art, wot a size it is compared with England. Why, it could take us all in over and over agin."

She says, "In course it could, as is the largest 'ighland in the world except Afriker, as they've been and turned into a 'ighland thro' a-makin' that Sewers Canal, as 'ave cut it off adrift from the rest of the world."

"Law," I says, "suppose it were to float away, for I don't 'old with playin' them tricks with natur', as in course knowed 'er own busyness, and don't want to 'ave places all chopped and changed about, as will next be a-turnin' dry lands into oshuns and floodin' parties out of 'ouse and 'ome, like the river

'ave done them poor creeturs in South Lambeth, all thro' them a-makin' of that Tems Imbankment, as 'ave been and turned the river out of its own bed, as they calls it, as is 'ard lines for anyone as is obliged to keep it, the same as poor Mrs. Biles, as were bedridden thro' roomattics, and yet 'ad it took from under 'er for Queen's taxes, as I'm sure Queen Wictorier wouldn't never 'ave allowed if she'd 'ave knowed it, as 'ave a feelin' 'art, and 'ave 'ad sorrers of 'er own thro' bein' left a widder with nine, tho' some on 'em settled, and nearly all big enuf to do for theirselves."

"Yes," says Miss Pilkinton, "Horsetrailier 'ave turned up trumps, for when my poor dear aunt went out, it were a rough place, as is over fifty year ago."

I says, "I remembers 'er well, as were a pretty gal as throwed 'erself away on a commershal as she met at a dance, and 'er father wouldn't never forgive, tho' he 'adn't much to give 'er, and died in a arms-'ouse 'isself thro' losin' the use of 'is limbs."

Miss Pilkinton she says, "Wot a memory you 'ave got, Mrs. Brown."

"Ah!" I says, "I've been and forgot a deal more than many other people ever knowed."

Says Miss Pilkinton, "When you comes from Horsetrailier there won't be no 'oldin' of you."

I says, "If ever I gets as far, I shan't walk

about upside down, nor yet with my eyes shet, nor yet in my pocket, but," I says, "you shall 'ear from me all about it. Cos if it's true wot you've told me, must be singler to see everythink topsy-turvy, as the sayin' is, and the winter the summer, the rong time of year, with the moon and the sun a-comin' the rong way. But, mussy on us," I says, "I do 'ope as the sun and moon knows 'ow to keep their proper places, and don't go on like that, as might bring on a collusion between 'em, tho' in course they don't 'ave the same sun and moon over there as ours, cos, in course, the sun and the moon can't be in two places at once, no more than anybody else in this world."

Says Miss Pilkinton, "Oh! there's a many of them natral finonymums, as can't be esplained, the same as the full moon and the stars."

"Ah!" I says, "I never bothers myself about things as is over my 'ead, for I don't know 'ardly nothink about wot is within reach, and can't make out as the world is round, cos I've always gone everywheres thro' a-keepin' strait on, tho' certainly aboard ship, even goin' to Margit, I've seen the man at the wheel as you mustn't speak to, or he'd take and run you on a rock as soon as look at you, as keeps on a-turnin' of it constant. So it may be as he's a-tryin' to turn a corner as ain't wisible to the naked eye, as is the reason as the capting is

always a-takin' sights for fear as he might come to a dead reckonin' as he's always afeard on, and well he may be with all them souls aboard of 'is wessel; but as to dangers, it's no use a-thinkin' about them, cos there was poor Mrs. Abud, as was that timid as she wouldn't let 'er own son go to bed with a candle for fear as he should burn the 'ouse down."

She come to a untimely hend, poor thing, thro' a-settin' down on a box of lucifers, in a musling gown, as was left on the gardin seat, as esploded with a bang, and sent 'er flyin' into the well, as must 'ave been drownded if 'er 'ead 'adn't fixed tight into the bucket, as a man see 'er 'eels a-stickin' out of from the top of a 'ouse as he were repairin' the roof, and was drored up by the rope, black in the face, and werry nigh at 'er last grasp, poor soul, and would 'ave been drownded if she 'ad been that width as she stuck in the well.

Miss Pilkinton she's a 'andy soul, she is, and set to work for to 'elp me with my packin', and in less than a week I was all ready, as took Brown aback when he come 'ome and asked me when I could start, cos, as luck would 'ave it, he'd found as two births 'ad fell in aboard the steamer as made room for us. I says, "I'm glad as it ain't two deaths, not but both is awkward things to 'ave 'appen at sea, tho' in course there ain't no undertakers to pay for a shot to your leg and a ammick

over the side, and the infant is always chargeable on Stepney parish, as might be a good thing to know in case of the wessel bein' wrecked and it a-missin' its parents in the confusion." Not as I'm afeard of anythink like that a-'appenin' to me and Brown, as will sail in a fortnight out of the dock by the "Acorngagerer," as is a outlandish name for a wessel, but in course you must expect them things to be strange, and perwents confusion with so many a-sailin' to all parts, as it's a wonder they ever gets anywheres, in my opinion.

I'd been a-slavin' and a-drivin' for days a-packin' and gettin' ready for the woyage, with Miss Pilkinton a-unpickin' my blue barege with the yaller stripe, as, tho' only new last summer, 'ad shrunk so as it wouldn't meet round the waist by two fingers, not by perswashuns nor force, as the sayin' is. I 'ad my green silk dyed brown to wear in turn, as looked equal to new, only Miss Pilkinton she took and made it up too short in front, as Mrs. Challin told me showed the stockin' over the top of the boot, as don't look well at my time of life, tho' a many 'ave told me scores of times as I don't look my hage, not with my new front, as is three shades lighter than wot I've ever wore my 'air since I fust 'ad my 'ead shaved after our Joe was born, thro' Mrs. Childers a-perswadin' me as it would grow agin like a fresh crop; but it never

did, only werry thin and patchy, and there I was in a black silk skull-cap and a front for the rest of my nat'ral life.

I thought as that packin' would 'ave drove me mad, for Mrs. Challin she busted the bottom of one box out with weighin' down on it, and is that deaf as she took and packed the two kittens at the bottom of my 'air trunk, as would 'ave gone out to Horsetrailier as dead as mutton, as the sayin' is, but for nat'ral instincs of the cat, as went on like mad, and wouldn't leave the led of that box, as she kep' a-scratchin' at a-tryin' to tear it open with 'er claws, as shows what a thing natur' is, for she smelt them kittens tho' they was under all my things, long afore we could 'ear 'em a-mewin', and that's 'ow they were got out jest in time, poor little things, tho' if they 'ad got took out they might 'ave been curiosities over there.

I'm sure if I'd took an 'undredth part of the things as I were told I couldn't get out in Horse-trailier, I might 'ave filled up a wessel with my boxes alone; but Brown he cut it short by tellin' me to take wot I wanted for daily use, and as to the rest, he says, you must chance gettin' of it; so I only 'ad my 'air trunk, with a carpet-bag and a bandbox, besides wot I stood up in. Well, there I was packed and ready, when Brown gave me sich a turn by sayin' one night as soon as he come in to

supper, as we couldn't go by the "Acorngagerer," for it were chuck full, as the sayin' is. I was put out, for I'd been aboard, and 'ad see the capting and the hofficers, and they'd treated me like Queen Wictorier, as was a gallant lot to look at, as I quite took to, thro' 'avin' sich ways with 'em. The capting he'd got a eye as give a twinkle like a little star, as the sayin' is, and I 'eard say as he was quite the ladies man, as is the party I should like to 'ave sailed with all over the world, and wot he must 'ave been in uniform I can't think, for 'is everyday clothes was that elegant, as looked like Regent Street from top to toe. The hofficers was a knowin' lot, and as to the one as they called the fust, when he caught sight of me, if he didn't take and bust out a-larfin' that pleasant as made me quite take a fancy to 'im.

Then there was some young fellers in uniform—a dark one in partikler, as tipped me a wink, and looked larky, but in course didn't dare, not none on 'em, to give into none of their games under the capting's eye, as would 'ave ordered 'em a round dozen, if not put in irons, in a brace of shakes, as the sayin' is.

I did take to one, as they told me was the 'ead ingineer. Ah! He was a fine-figgered man. I quite took to 'im, as would make me 'ave a glass of shampain wine, as he must want down among them

ingins, and I can't think 'owever he bears the 'eat and keeps 'is figger, as would melt me down to nothink in no time. I felt that 'appy aboard that wessel, and felt ready to start. So it was perwokin', arter seein' it all so lovely, to think as we couldn't go by 'er, and I couldn't 'elp a-sheddin' of a silent tear, I was that disappinted, for we should 'ave 'ad a fust-rate time aboard sich a ship, as I was told afterwards everyone 'ad by them as I see in Melbin' as 'ad come out by 'er, said the capting as he never 'ad a nicer lot of passengers, as was all that agreeable, and kep' on singin' and a-dancin' all the way out, and 'adn't no bad weather nor nothink unpleasant till after they left the Cape, and everybody that pleasant like brothers and sisters, as some shed tears at partin', and werry nigh broke the capting's 'art, as sobbed laudibly in sayin' goodbye—tho', in course, too much the man to give way; and as to the doctor, he took to 'is bed for a 'ole day thro' bein' that cut up, tho' in my opinion he was wore out thro' bein' that anxious, as any doctor would be, for fear as anybody shouldn't be took ill.

I never see Brown more put out when he told me as that wessel were full, cos he'd set 'is 'art on it.

I says, "Can't none of 'em be squared so as to manage to take us aboard on the quiet."

He says, "The only way would be to get aboard as stowaways.

I says, "Well, then, let us. Why not. I'm game."

He bust out larfin', and says, "You're a good figger for a stowaway."

I says, "Wotever do you mean by a stowaway?"

"Why," he says, "parties as wants to get out there without payin', so 'ides among the coals, and when found out 'as to work their passidges, or is put in prison as soon as they lands."

I says, "Mr. Brown, 'owever could you think of sich a thing for your lorful wife?"

"Well," he says, "it's the only way as we can go by this wessel, for there ain't no room for anything beyond a hinfant in harms."

I says, "Why, nobody wouldn't be sich a brute as to send a hinfant to sea alone, as must always be noosances aboard ship, poor little dears, even with nusses to look arter 'em, but wotever sailors could do with a lone baby on their 'ands I can't think; tho' I did know a young feller as were a middy aboard a wessel as got lodged on a coral reef, as give way with the weight of the wessel jest as they was gettin' into the boats, and there was a poor woman as 'ad a hinfant as she give that boy into the boat to 'old while she was a-steppin' down,

and at that moment the 'ole lot capsized. There was that boy left with that hinfant on 'is 'ands, as he didn't know wot to do with, but as luck would 'ave it there was some good sisters aboard as was saved, so took that poor little thing off 'is 'ands entirely, as was a mussy." So, a-seein' Brown that put out, I says, "Why not give it up?"

"No," he says, "I said as I'd go, and go I will."

"Ah!" I says, "that is true Britannier metal, that is like our teapot, as I prefers to plated."

"Well," he says, "Britannier metal, mind as you keeps ready, for if I find a chance I'm off; so don't you be took by surprise if I gives you short notice to start."

I says, "I 'ates short notices, as is like the tax-getherer, but I'm on, and when you gives the word we're off; but," I says, "I do 'ope as the boat is all right, not as I'm one to be afeared, only the werry thort of the sea always do give me a turn, thro' a uncle of mine as floundered off Injier, and were wrecked, and 'ad to live by suckin' of 'is flannin' westcoat for three weeks, in a open boat, as settled in 'is eyes, and wore blue glasses to 'is dyin' day, with a silver plate in 'is 'ead, thro' a spar comin' off on board the wessel as cracked 'is skull, as didn't ort to 'ave been fightin' with them sailors, as no doubt were 'is fault, for 'is mother said as he

were always fond of sparrin' when a boy, as he called the noble hart of self-defence, as got him more black heyes and damidged noses than enuf."

I was just a-menshunin' these 'ere matters in goin' to sleep, but I might as well 'ave been a-speakin' to the bed-post, for Brown he was fast asleep, as is 'is 'abits as soon as in bed.

Some'ow I couldn't get off, cos I were layin' a-thinkin' when we should start, likewise of them as was at sea with the wind a-'owlin' like 'urrykins down our chimbley, as you 'ears werry plain, thro' me never 'avin' a chimbley board, not winter nor summer, as is why all the children got thro' everythink so well, with plenty of fresh hair and without no drafts, nor pills neither for that matter, cos I don't 'old with no medsins not in measles, nor yet 'oopin' corf, as is only nat'ral. It were more than a week as I were settin' constant, with all my things packed, when Brown came in and said we was off the next day evenin'; so I was ready, for I got Miss Pilkinton to promise to post a letter to Liza as soon as we was aboard, and Brown 'ad 'rote to Joe. Mary Ann, as is my dorter, Mrs. Barnes, she come to see me, along with 'er 'usban', and began a-cryin', sayin' as she should never see me no more. I says, "Well, my dear," I says, "we parts friends, as is a good thing," so she kissed me and I shook 'ands with Barnes, tho' he 'adn't be'aved

proper, and the next day evenin' we went aboard. I shan't never forget to my dyin' day the langwidge as that cabman give in to in a-liftin' of my 'air trunk on the top of 'is cab as were a-goin' to take us to the Docks, as tho' a 'eavy weight no doubt. Brown didn't ort to 'ave incouraged 'im by larfin', and askin' me if it were Nore's Ark, or our four-poster, as I were a-takin' aboard, so I says, "Mr. Brown, don't you forget yourself in jeerin' at everythink as your wife's got to wear, nor yet at things as did ort to be respected, tho', in course, Nore's Ark is a puzzle, 'owever they all managed for to live that iggledy-piggledy, all mixed up with them hanimals for six weeks, though, in course, if the Horsetrailians, man and beast, can live upside down, why shouldn't parties as was in the flood be able to; and," I says, "as to my four-poster, though I've 'ad many a good night's rest in it, no doubt there's as good beds on the other side of the world as on this." I was talkin' like this to Brown in the cab, a-goin' to the Docks, where the wessel was; but as is the way with 'im, he kep' a-noddin' all the way. I couldn't 'elp a-feelin' choky in my throat as we was drove thro' the streets, jest as they was a-lightin' up the shops, a-thinkin' as I mightn't never see 'em never no more, as I'd been used to from a gal, from the Goldin Canister, where they sold the best tea as is to be got at the East End, partikler

in the Ratcliff 'Ighway, to the Catherine Weal, as is a respectable 'ouse. If it 'adn't been as I'd took a somethink in my tea afore startin', for to quiet them sinkin's as I felt internal, I don't think as I should 'ave bore up. I wouldn't 'ave no friends at the last with them good-byes, as is things I 'ates, so kep' dark from Mrs. Padwick, and a many more, when we was to start, tho' there weren't no keepin' Miss Pilkinton away, and 'er sobbins and sighin's nearly upset me.

She wanted to come aboard with us, but I knowed well as Brown wouldn't never stand that, so I 'ad to choke 'er off, a-sayin' as we wasn't sure till the last moment as we shouldn't jine the wessel at Plymouth or Gravesend, as some did through fear of it's bein' rough in the Channel.

It were a fine wessel as we went by, and as for Brown, he knowed the ingineers, so we got aboard, and everythink werry comfortable in the Docks, as is a reg'lar wilderness of wessels.

I'm sure wherever all them ships comes from and goes to I can't think, as must reg'lar crowd the oshun up, and no wonder as there's collushins, and flounderin's, and things like that a-'appenin' constant; and for my part I can't never make out 'ow any wessel ever gets anywheres, cos in course they're only at the mussy of the ragin' helefants, as is in some parts that wild as I've 'eard say nothink

can't live as comes in their way. I well remembers a uncle of my dear mother's, as were swallered up by a Ticoon somewheres in the Red Sea, as is called red thro' bein' that red 'ot as you can't draw your breath.

The ship as we sailed in were called hoxillary steam, and certingly were a noble wessel, and like a floatin' castle, and a deal of bustle thro' takin' in cargo, tho' not more confusion than if you was a-goin' to Margit.

Brown and me 'ad a cabin to ourselves, as was crampy work, and they couldn't get my 'air trunk in at the door; so there it were, wedged agin the door, till sich time as they could let it down into the 'old, as they called it.

I was in my cabin, a-takin' out wot things I wanted for the woyage, when I 'eard parties a-talkin' in the next cabin, as I couldn't 'elp 'earin', tho' never one to listen. I could 'ear it were a field-male in tears as were a-talkin', but couldn't make out the other woice, tho' aperiently a male, as kep' on a-sayin', "All right," and "Don't bother," and all like that.

Then I 'eard a woice, as were the fieldmale, a-givin' way, as she busted into tears, and I 'eard 'im say, "Oh, mother, don't make such a bother over it!" as give me a turn, cos he didn't speak nice and feelin', as a son did ought to in sayin' good-bye

to a mother as 'ad a feelin' art. Not but wot mothers is in gen'ral great fools over sons; but, law, it's natur', so they can't 'elp it.

I didn't want to 'ear no more, but get out I couldn't, for they'd been and shoved things up agin our cabin door, as kep' it fast, and I suppose as them parties was shet up too, and I couldn't make nobody 'ear thro' the noise, as was like thunder-bolts a-rattlin' up on deck over'ead, so I couldn't 'elp 'earin' wot was a-bein' said in the next cabin. She says, "My own dear boy, pray 'rite as soon as ever you can, and mind as you takes care of yourself, for my sake!" and then I 'eard 'er give way.

He says, "What a beastly 'ole of a cabin as I shall have to stick in all the way!"

"Oh," she says, "you'll be on deck nearly all day, and will 'ave fine weather."

"That I shan't!" he says; "I ain't a-goin' to disgrace myself bein' seen second-class!"

She says, "Oh, my darling boy, I'm so sorry; but, indeed, I've parted with everythink to pay your passidge, and give you a few pounds in your pocket; and here's your father's watch, as I wasn't able to get for you last night!" and then she bust out a-cryin'.

I didn't 'ear no more, but jest then they moved them things away from the cabin door, and I 'urries

upon deck for to get my breath, as I were reg'lar choked.

It were a lovely hevenin', and the river and the Docks looked that solim in the starlight, as made me feel quite serious a-thinkin' as I didn't know how soon the hend might come; but Brown he come and roused me, and made me 'ave a biscuit and a drop of somethink hot afore I turned in, as the sailors called it, and I fell asleep, and didn't 'ear that wessel leave the Docks, as Brown told me she glided out like a infant, and the next mornin' we was moored off Gravesend afore breakfast time, as they give us 'ot rolls and srimps, jest for all the world like dry land.

Gravesend did look that cheerful the fust thing in the mornin' when I went on deck, with all them wessels a-layin'-to about the place, as was to take parties all over the world, and boats a-comin' off with passengers to our steamer, with raw meat and fresh wegetables, and all manner throwed in. Not as I considers Gravesend is a cheerful name, tho' some say as it is called arter the plague a-stoppin' there, the same as Queen Lizzybeth, as were a reg'lar plague when she did used to live in Tilberry Fort, as she kep' full of sojers; and a nice life she led 'em, as she kep' in constant exercise on horse-back day and night, as you may see her in the Tower done in wax-works on the werry 'orse as she kep'

a-spurrin' at, and 'ollerin', "Up, Guards, and at 'em!" the same as the Dook of Wellin'ton at Waterloo, as that scarrified the French as they took to their 'eels, and never stopped even to look behind 'em till they got back to France with a flee in their ear, as the sayin' is, and werry nigh capsized Old Boney 'isself out of 'is carridge, as was took by the Inglish, as give it to Madam Tussors in Baker Street, next the Chamber of 'Orrers, as is sixpence hextrer, as no doubt is the proper place for 'im, as 'ad lots of 'orrers when he found 'isself a-frettin' under that weepin' willer as he lived in at Sent Eleener, as were a barrin rock, as wessels stops at now, tho' he couldn't never get away from to 'is dyin' day. I 'ad a werry tolerable night's rest aboard that wessel, tho' a bunk ain't a bed as you can kick much about in; and as to the cabin, there was no more room than jest to dress in, and I must say I felt werry like bein' confined, not as I minded that, thro' not bein' one of them fidgets as can't bear confinement, as is a thing as I've been used to all my life.

One thing were a great blessin', as our cabin were hairy, through 'avin' a little round winder in it as they calls a port, as is the only way to get a breath of hair, as you may keep open in fine weather, but must be kep' tight as wax when it's a blowin', as is why, I suppose, sailors says any port

in a storm, a knowin' it's your only chance of gettin' a mouthful of fresh hair; so if you can't open your own, open your naybour's. We was ankored off Gravesend, tho' the steam were up, and I stood a-watchin' passengers a-comin' aboard that steamer, and tho' some was down on their luck, as the sayin' is, there was others as was a-leavin' of their native hile with light 'arts, and some glad to get away. I see one middle age gent as give way a good deal in sayin' good-bye to a young lady as were aperiently his dorter, and I should say jest married, for tho' she cried a good deal when it come to partin' with 'er pa, as went down into the boat a-usin' of his 'ankercher free, she turned a lovin' look and reg'lar smiled thro' 'er tears as her 'usban', a fine-lookin' young man, come up and took 'er 'and, and waved 'is 'at to 'er father, while she kep' 'er 'ankercher a-flutterin' out to 'im till he got to the pier.

At last they rung the last bell but one for parties as was for the shore to leave the ship, and I was a-standin' by the top of the companion, as is wot they calls the stairs as leads down to the cabin, as I looked into, and see as some was a-'ritin' a few last words to friends at home, and others was a-sayin' good-bye over and over agin; and I noticed partikler a party in black a-kissin' a young feller at the foot of them stairs, as looked like 'er

son, and soon found out as they was the parties as I'd 'eard a talkin' in the next cabin the hevenin' afore.

She was a-weepin' bitter like a willer, poor thing, and if that good-for-nothink feller didn't say, "Why ever did you come fidgetin' down 'ere to-day, mother, arter sayin' good-bye last night, as 'ave quite upset me." I should like to 'ave boxed his ears, a stuck-up 'umbug, for he wouldn't come up on deck to see 'er off.

"Ah, my boy," I says, "you little knows as you're a-partin' with the best friend you'll ever 'ave in this world, whichever side you may go."

So I walks away as she come up, not to seem to be a-noticin' of her, but when she turned 'er face to me, if it wasn't a party in the name of Billers, as did used to live in the Coborn Road. We wasn't beknown beyond jest a-movin' in passin', but, tho' never intimate, I knowed all about 'er affairs by 'earsay, as I were told 'ad been left bad off with only this one boy, as 'ad always been a trouble to 'er, thro' Billers bein' took sudden, as couldn't save much out of the Custom-'ouse, as is poor pay nowadays when they've been and done away with the dooty on everything. She was a-cryin' bitter, poor soul, and, tho' I knowed so little on 'er, I goes up to 'er and took 'er 'and and I says, "Bear up, that's a good soul."

She says, "Ah! Mrs. Brown, I could bear anything but 'is bein' that indifferent; not but wot he's got a 'art, and a noble one, too; he's that proud he can't forget as he've been born a gentleman, and can't stoop to be looked down on in bein' second class."

I didn't want to 'urt 'er feelin's, but I thinks to myself, rubbish about a gentleman, for I'd 'eard say as 'is grandfather was in service, and as to poor Mrs. Billers, I knowed both 'er father and mother, as was in the coal and tater line in Bethnal Green. So I says, "Keep a good 'art; I'll give a eye to 'im on the woyage."

She says, "You don't mean to say as you're a-goin' out all that way?"

I says, "That I am; there and back, as I 'opes."

"Oh," she says, "I wish as I were goin', to be near my dear Charley, as isn't arf so bad as they makes 'im out."

"Ah!" I says, "and when he's Charley over the water he'll be all the better."

"Yes," she says, "he'll get away from bad companions, as 'ave been the ruin of 'im, for a better boy never stepped till he was past twelve, and got out playin' in the streets."

"Ah!" I says, "no doubt; but," I says, "you keep up, and I'll try and let you know 'ow he gets

on, cos I'm sure my good gentleman will rite you a line."

So she took my 'and and says, "Thank you a thousand times," and over the side she went quite cheerful, and as she got away in the boat I see 'er smile and wave 'er 'ankercher, as made me 'ope as that young feller were a-lookin' thro' the port 'ole arter 'er. In course it's nat'ral as a mother should feel, but as for that young feller, I'd 'eard of his wagaries, as was only seventeen, and wicked enuf for seventy; and as to bad companions, that's wot a mother always says is the ruin of 'er boy, tho' it's most likely as the boot's on the hother leg, as the sayin' is.

I do not 'old with boys a-playin' in the street, yet it's all werry fine to talk, they must play somewheres, and our Joe 'ave turned out all right, tho' he'd nowheres else to amuse 'imself but the London Fields, as is the same as the streets, thro' all bein' built over now.

I must say as seein' a wessel got under way, as they calls it, is a fine sight, for they manages 'er like a child, and seem to be able to drive 'er about where they pleases with that one donkey ingin, when they might use two thousin'-'orse power, as I suppose they don't do for fear of sendin' her thro' the water too quick, as would run into everythink as come in the way. There was a good many

passengers first and second, and as to the steerage, that were crammed. I 'eard parties werry merry in the capting's cabin as we went off, and parties a-standin' up in a boat and cheerin' us, and a-wishin' success to the woyage. The weather were lovely, but, as I were a sayin' to the stewardess, as knowed a 'arf sister of Mrs. Padwick, so we was friends at once, I says to her, "This is too fine to last." She says, "Right you are, for it's wot we calls in my country, as is the Eastern Counties, a weather breeder."

I set up on deck all day, and couldn't 'elp a-feelin' dull as we was a passin' Margit and Ramsgit, as we could see the white cliffs on, a-rememberin' the 'appy days as I'd 'ad there with tea and srimps, and bathin' with the werry best company as ever I kep', as was there in crowds. As we kep' on we could see Dover Castle, and the Downs where the fleet laid moored when black-eyed Susin come aboard, as is a lovely song, as Brown did used to sing like a lark, enuf to bring tears in your heyes, when I fust knowed 'im.

I could 'ave set and 'ave 'ad a good cry over them times as is past, but it ain't no good to be a snivellin' when we did ought to be a tryin' to do our duty and keep a cheerful 'art, and there was a many about me on board that steamer as wanted cheerin' up. I were right about the weather, as

turned up as rough as a bear jest about sunset, as the fust notice I got on it were a wave as come up quite suddin' over the side and drenched me jest as I were a-goin' down to tea, as there weren't none for me that night, for I were that upset as I went and got into my bunk, as I could jest wedge into, and there I stopped till we got to Plymouth, a-rollin' fearful all night, and I couldn't neither stand nor set nor get my things on. It's a mussy as we stopped a few 'ours at Plymouth, not as I did no more than make myself a little bit comfortable.

Brown he were all right, and got along fust-rate with 'is pals the ingineers, so gave up 'is bunk to a lady in the name of Nudkins, as were that size as I shouldn't 'ave cared to 'ave 'ad 'er over me but for the bunk bein' ion girders, besides I couldn't never 'ave climbed up into that berth, as would 'ave been my death, I do believe, if I'd 'ave missed stays, as the sayin' is, and pitched out of it, not as I dressed myself for the next three days, as the weather were that bad, and tho' not so ill as I 'ave been in goin' to Margit—Mrs. Nudkins, she were a-groanin' over my 'ead, and kep' a-sayin' to me, "Do you think as there's any danger?" I couldn't get no rest for 'er moans. At last I got quite short, and I says, not a-knowin' nothink about dangers nor yet fears, "I can't say; but," I says, "if there is

one thing is certain, we can't 'elp ourselves out of it."

Certingly that wessel did roll and plunge frightful, and things in the cabin kep' a-slippin' and a-slidin' backard and forards, and swingin' about, and there was constant crashin's and dashin's over-'ead and in the saloon, as was frightful confusion. Brown he come to the door every now and then to see 'ow I was gettin' on, tho' too much the gentleman for to think of even puttin' of 'is 'ead in. I says, "Don't bother about me, my dear, I'm all right, thank you all the same, and you may be sure as I shan't stop 'ere a minnit when I can stand on my legs and 'ave got my 'ead clear," for that's wot I were a-sufferin' from more than the sea, and could 'ave said as Mrs. Nudkins were wuss than all that put together, for that woman kep' on a-sayin', "I 'opes as you're not a-goin' to leave me, as shall die of terrors if left alone, for," she says, "I've knowed them as 'ave been wrecked six times, as 'ave lost two 'usbunds thro' the sea, and 'ad a brother werry nigh lost in the River Lee, and," she says, "if the bilers was to bust thro' bein' over'eated, or the crank was to break, we might all go down with a run."

I says, "Wot's a crank?"

"Oh," she says, "it's a thing as supports every wessel."

I says, "I thought as they didn't allow no cranky wessels to go to sea nowadays."

"Oh," she says, "they ain't allowed, but they will do it; besides, they can't tell as somethink won't give way hevery hinstant;" she says, "besides, the screw might get loose, and then we should be stuck fast."

I says, "Surely they've got a screw-driver aboard to tighten it."

Jest then there come sich a reg'lar swash of the sea as made the wessel shiver agin.

"Oh!" she says with a scream, "that's a wave come over 'er as might rush down into the injin-room and put the fires out, and we should be done for."

I says, "We've got sails."

"Ah!" she says, "as would be tore to ribbins in two minnits, or else they might in their 'urry put on too much, as would blow us over the same as that there 'Uridisee' off the Ile of Wight, as went down a jiffey on a Sunday."

"Well," I says, "I don't fear nothink so much as fogs, as often brings on them collusions like that 'as 'appened off Dover atween the German and the Inglish, as may 'appen agin any day."

"Yes," she says, "or night either, as is a orful thort to be swallered up in your sleep; but," she says, "my constant dread is fire, as might break out

suddin' thro' anyone a-shakin' of 'is pipe out careless, or a lucifer trod on unawares, as a spark on might fly down into the 'old, as is always kep' full of gunpowder."

I says, "Mussy on us, wotever do you mean?"

She says, "They must carry powder, in course, agin pirates or for signals of distress, in case as a leek should spring up in the bottom of the ship."

I says, "That wouldn't do no 'arm down there, cos it wouldn't grow to no size any more than a onion or a 'tater, as won't do no more than sprout if kep' in the dark."

Jest then a werry gruff woice says, as wasn't no gentleman to speak so to ladies, "I wish as you two old cats would 'old your jaggerin', as keeps a noise wuss than any gale as ever blowed, and be hanged to you"—only he used wuss words.

I didn't anser, for fear as 'is orful langwidge might bring some judgment on us, so I shet my heyes and got off at last; not afore I 'eard Mrs. Nudkins a-snorin' great guns, as the sayin' is.

I must say as fine weather makes fine sailors, the same as fine feathers makes fine birds, as the sayin' is, and never was there finer weather as broke in on us all thro' the Bay of Bisky, as it give me a turn when fust I 'eard we was a-goin' across, thro' Mrs. Nudkins a-keepin' on a-sayin' as it were nothin' but wrex, and seldom as any wessels got safe

thro' it in a storm, as was always ragin'; and in course I'd often 'eard the song all about "Loud roared the dreadful thunder," and "The rain a deluge pourin'," as they wouldn't never 'ave made a song on if it 'adn't been as well beknown as Proverbs to be 'ighly dangerous.

But, law bless you, it was that fine as made your 'art jump for joy, and as to wrex, we never even see a wessel, with the waves a-dancin' round you for joy, and a-shinin' all the time like dimons broke loose all over the place, as is no doubt what dimons comes from, thro' bein' only water arter all as 'ave been putrified by age, as is why they talks about their bein' fust water, tho' whyever they should talk about their bein' carrots I can't think, except thro' their growin' in fields, as a party aboard in that line were explainin' to me about them dimon fields in Africker, as 'ad been out in them, as was a-goin' back by the Cape of Good 'Ope, as he were a-goin' to stop at, so I 'opes we shall all land there, for I should like to run up and see 'em, as must be a grand sight, partikler when the sun's a-shinin', tho' preaps dazzlin' to the naked heye, as would require smoke glass, the same as an eclipse, for to keep off the glare, as is like lookin' at snow, as werry nigh blinded me over in Canader, as I do 'ope that dear Princess Louise 'ave wore blue glasses, or even a green shade, cos it would put 'er Roy l

ma out dreadful if she was to come 'ome with bad heyes, or even 'er ears froze off, and obliged to 'ave 'em done up in ile and cotton, as would be a dreadful eyesore as no dimons nor feathers wouldn't never 'ide, for I well remembers a party as went out for a drive at Montreeall without no ear-caps, and come 'ome with them swelled up like boxin' gloves and as red as beetroot, as was dreadful to look at, and werry nigh bein' mortified, as no doubt he felt a touch on, poor fellow, for he were a-goin' to a grand ball that werry night to meet a young lady as he were werry sweet on, as he 'oped to cut another young feller out with, but in course couldn't do it with 'is 'ead done up in flannins the size of a bushel, and 'is nose the colour of a beetroot at the tip.

Even the fine weather didn't cheer that old croakin' Mrs. Nudkins, as set on deck a-goin' on; and when I says to her, "'Ow singler we 'adn't see a ship not for two days!" she says, "In course not! 'Ow could we, when they're all at the bottom of the bottomless deep?"

"Lor!" I says; "'ow orful to come sich a dangerous way!"

She says, "There ain't only one other way as we could go, as is round the 'Orn, as is ten times wuss, nothink but wild wales and icebugs, as is where I lost my fust in the name of Welks, leastways he sailed away from New Zealand in full 'ealth, with

every farden as he'd got in the world in 'is pocket, and a good outfit, and wasn't never 'eard on no more, tho' one party said he could swear he see 'im years arter in Sydney. Some thought as he went overboard on the woyage a-stretchin' too far a-lookin' arter the wales or the icebugs, as is some on 'em as 'igh as the 'ills; but 'owever that were, wot with between the wales and the 'ills, I never see 'im no more, tho' I did go down to Southampton to meet 'im, as I considers a wife's duty, and thought it werry unkind in 'im not to be aboard; but as I didn't 'ear nothink on 'im for seven years, as was long enough to wait for any man, and give 'im plenty of time to find me out if he'd been and landed anywheres, or even been left behind, so I took and married Nudkins, as come from Horse-trailier, and as went back there like a shot when I 'adn't been 'is wife a fortnight, a-sayin' as he'd rather live in the bottomless pit than England, tho' I'm sure he'd a 'appy 'ome with me, but he would go, and never rote nor nothink; and 'avin' 'eard as he've been and died over there last year, and left property behind, I'm a-goin' to look arter it, as is my dews."

I thought to myself as both 'er 'usbans 'ad lewanted, as the sayin' is, and well they might, for of all the grievous jimmies as ever I see, she was the wust.

They do say as fat parties is in gen'ral jolly, but law! she was a reg'lar bladder of lard for figger, and yet always a-grizzlin', tho' I must say as the food as she took were somethink to make you stare, even in 'er birth, for she'd begin with coffee and rolls, arter that breakfast, as was fried 'am and heggs, liver and bacon, dry 'ash, mutton chops, rolls and butter, dry toast and marmylid to wind up with.

A nice job me and the stewardess 'ad nussin' 'er, and the insults as she give us cos we wouldn't let 'er 'ave Hirish stew for supper that same night, as she'd been that bad, black in the face, and snortin' like a sea-horse. She certingly rallied wonderful quick, as were 'erself in the mornin', but I thinks as it was the sea hair as picked 'er up that suddin, as they do say makes you get younger, thro' breathin' Hoes-own, wotever he may be; but as to Brown, he were burnt up like a berry, and like a boy in sperrits, afore we got to what they calls Medeery, as is where the wines come from, as did used to be a deal thort on, and in gen'ral a yaller seal, as the Lord Mare did used to 'ave for lunchin; and I well remembers a party where I lived when quite a gal, as were a alderman's widder, as did used to get a bottle out of the cellar with 'er own 'ands, as she'd take and rop up in 'er flannin pettycoat, for fear as it should get a chill, as I wonder she didn't, a-goin'

into a cellar without it, as is a bad thing for anybody, whether it's wine or not as is the reason for leavin' off anythink suddin.

Certingly Medeery is a lovely spot, as we went ashore at in a little boat, as me and Mrs. Nudkins went in together, and couldn't get out on till they took and turned it over on its side on to werry 'ard stones, and shot 'er out on the top of me, as took away my breath. I didn't think much of the town, as is a mean 'ole, but they took us up a 'igh 'ill in a bullick-waggon without no wheels, as is drored by hoxin, for to see the view, and then let us slide down agin that wiolent as I should 'ave been squashed but thro' bein' jerked on to Mrs. Nudkins, as were a-sittin' oppersite to me, and come that wiolent into 'er lap as made 'er turn purple, and give me that shove back'ards, and turned me out of the wehicle on to them nubbly stones, and it's a mussy as I wasn't throwed under the hoxes' feet, as would 'ave trod me to powder, as is what Mrs. Nudkins did my corns, a double-faced wiper, as borrered my umbreller, and then to call me a prize upperpotomus, and to say as she wouldn't go back aboard the steamer in the same boat, and reg'lar turned me in reddicule behind my back, little thinkin' as I were a-settin' and a-listenin' to 'er dosy do, as the French says, in the next seat to her in the 'otel gardin.

I didn't make no remark, but slipped off on the quiet for to get aboard by myself, cos Mrs. Nudkins she'd been and jined other parties as she thort were a-goin' to stand a lunch.

I was glad to get away from 'em, for I didn't want to spend money on a lunch, nor yet sponge upon nobody, for Brown he were ashore, and we'd met and 'ad a nice cool drink; and as to wittles, beyond fruit, the very thort of it gives me the creeps, as in gen'ral goes before the jumps with me.

Mrs. Nudkins she's a reg'lar cadger, as will do you if she can, and tried it on with me, a-wantin' me to pay heverythink, a-sayin' as we'd settle arter.

So I says, "No, let's pay as we go, for," I says, "short reckonin's makes long friends, as the sayin' is."

So when I sees as she were a-givin' of me the cold shoulder, as the sayin' is, and a-edgin' of 'er-self into the other lot, I give 'em the slip, and made my way down to the beach, and there I found Brown, as got me into the boat and aboard the steamer all right, tho' I left my umbreller along with Mrs. Nudkins.

When we got aboard there was a reg'lar fair on the deck, and all them poor native Injins a-sellin' of their different things, as is all they've got to live on,

as looked 'arf starved. I bought a nice wicker-work chair, but didn't want no baby's frocks, nor yet feathers, nor fottygrafts, nor yet fruit.

The sun were a-beginnin' to set, and I was a-lookin' over the side of the wessel a-watchin' them natives goin' ashore and parties a-comin' aboard, when I sees Mrs. Nudkins in a boat werry much over the side, as was 'eavy enuf to swamp any boat. She no sooner sees me, than she 'olds up my umbreller.

Well, when the boat come alongside, and they was 'elpin' that woman up the ladder, she kep' 'oldin' on to my umbreller, and wouldn't let the sailors take it, and when she'd got up three steps, if she didn't go and let it slip into the water. I give a scream as if it 'ad been a infant, and offered them young naked savidges five shillin's to get it, as might 'ave tried, for they 'angs about the steamer and askin' you to throw sixpence into the sea for them to dive for, as shows they're a lazy lot, and would rather beg than earn a 'onest penny.

When Mrs. Nudkins come aboard she went on so about losin' that umbreller that I thort she were sorry, but found as she was only wexed, cos she'd got a lot of fruit in it, and were that insultin' when I said as a umbreller weren't a fruit basket, a-sayin' as that were all it were fit for, 'cos it were too 'eavy to 'old up, and in my opinion she were a

little bit on, for she 'ad a wiolent row with them parties as she'd jined ashore, thro' them a-bringin' 'er in fifteen shillin's in debt for 'er share of the espences, as 'ad been shampain cup, as soon runs into money.

I 'adn't seen nothink of young Billers ever since we'd started, and begun to think as he were one of them stowaways as I'd 'eard Brown a-talkin' of, but I see 'im in Medeery outside a 'orse a-goin' on with 'is larks, as was werry nigh left behind, but were brought aboard insensible thro' drink, as won't forget 'is Medeery spree in a 'urry, for he got a larkin', and dropped 'is money and lost 'is watch.

I didn't think as he'd got any money to lose, but Brown told me as there had been card-playin' a-goin' on aboard, and as that young feller'd been a-winnin'. Brown didn't believe 'as he'd lost 'is watch, and says to me on the quiet, as he was a deal more likely to take wot was somebody's else's than lose anythink of 'is own.

We 'ad dullish weather arter leavin' Medeery, with nasty squalls, and might 'ave been lost, all thro' that Mrs. Nudkins, as took and opened the port one night, as the sea come in at and might 'ave sent us all to the bottom, and as it wos it. swamped our cabin and drenched heverythink as I 'ad, and there was my new front a-floatin' out at the door; and then, like a black'arted false'ood

as she is, if that woman didn't say as I did it while she were asleep, as I'd climbed up the birth, and as she'd felt my elbers in 'er chest as I reached across 'er to unscrew that port'ole. So I says to Brown, "I won't stop alone with that fieldmale in the dead of the night any more, as would swear any one's life away, and might commit murder." So he'd got a cabin with a sofy in it, as 'ad belonged to a ingineer, as always slep' down below. So I took the birth as he'd give up to oblige Brown.

I don't think as there was one aboard as wouldn't 'ave run that wessel ashore to 'ave pleased Brown, if he'd 'ave asked 'em, cos he's such company, and can tell 'em all about steam-ingins, as he've made 'is study, tho' only a tide-waiter in the Docks, yet always 'ad that fancy for machinery, as he did used to cut out in pasteboard, and 'ave made reg'lar muddles in tryin' to improve bilers, as is sure to do somethink some day as will wake 'em all up.

As to 'is 'avin' a cabin, it were a reg'lar mockery, for he were never 'appy out of the stoke'ole, so I was a good deal alone, for Mrs. Nudkins, I reg'lar cut 'er arter that row over the port'ole, and tho' she did use to try and collar my chair on deck, I never spoke nor looked at 'er no more.

I must say as I consider crossin' that line as diwides the world in two a swindle, for tho' one of

them young officers showed it me, not thicker than a air, quite plain in 'is telescope, it ain't wisible to the naked heye.

I was sorry when I 'eard as we wasn't goin' to stop at St. Eleener, as I should like to 'ave seen the shade of Napoleon a-wisitin' of 'is tomb, as I've see a picter on years ago, cos in course, tho' they've been and took 'is body to lay it among poor old Invaleeds over in Paris, yet in course they can't take away 'is shade, as stands between two willer trees, as is weepin' over 'is tomb.

Not as ever I cared for any of the lot, for a aunt of my dear mother's was werry nigh bein' galanteened over in Paris the first riverlution, tho' only nuss in a family, as got away disguised as a coal'eaver in a barge, and afterwards married a marine, as were aboard a Henglish man-o'-war, thro' bein' a favourite of Lord Nelson, as she nussed when 'is arm were blowed off, and were along with 'im in Naples, and knowed all about Lady 'Amilton, and that prince as they 'ung and throwed overboard, as come up agin and reg'lar swum to meet 'em as they was a-rowin' in a boat.

We 'ad nice weather, tho' 'ead winds, arter we passed the line, and they may well call 'em 'ead winds, for they werry nigh blowed mine off my shoulders, and carried away my cap, front and all, as made Brown, as were on the bridge along

with the capting, bust out a-larfin', and say I were a-scuddin' under bare poles, as I considers a werry unfeelin' remark.

That was the werry hevenin' as we was gettin' werry near the Cape, and I come on deck in a 'urry to look at some porpuses. For we 'adn't seen many of them monsters of the deep, as the sayin' is, except some flyin' fish, and I did wish to see a wale or a shark, but as there wasn't none on 'em wisible, I turned in afore we got to the Cape, but Brown 'ad me out like a knife, as the sayin' is, and tho' the gun a-goin' off did make me jump, I were glad to see them blue lights and rockets as they lets off for signals of distress, and felt thankful as we was so far on our road.

I'm sure if any one 'ad told me as I should 'ave seen the Cape of Good 'Ope afore I died I should 'ave smiled increjulous, tho' I'd often 'eard speak on it thro' relations or parties as I lived with emygratin' over forty years ago, as went out in a wessel afore steam were inwented, with a large family as were a lot of children, as 'ad a jar of treacle in the cabin as broke in the night thro' a lurch goin' down the Channel, as they all got out of bed and fell into afore daylight, and was sticky to the hend of the woyage, as sea-water wouldn't get off. But, law, you 'ears of places, and reads of places, as you never expects to see in this world, and when you

gets there they ain't a bit like wot you expected as they might be. Tho' certingly I did ought to 'ave knowed about the Cape, for it were the fust place as Brown spoke about comin' to, and never 'adn't give Horsetrailier a thought, tho' it is next door to it, like by sea; but I never give no 'eed to comin' away from 'ome at fust, for Brown was in one of his jeery humours when he come in to supper that night, a-broachin' the subjec, as the sayin' is, and says to me, "Martha, old gal, do you know where South Afriker is?"

I says, "In course I do, as is oppersite North Afriker, and one of the quarters of the globe, and preshus 'ot quarters, too, I've 'eard say, for I remember well a-'earin' a seafarin' party say as the heggs 'atches in the sun, when laid on the sand, of their own accord, as must be a comfort to the 'ens, as in course in such great 'eat don't care about them long confinements, as keeps 'em on the nest for weeks at a time; besides, I've 'eard Lady Wittles speak of a aunt of 'ern as were grand-dorter by the mother's side to Munger Park, as were the fust as ever went there, and only to be murdered by them natives over there, or come to a untimely hend some'ow, as is all the same thing, like the babes in the wood, tho' nobody never knowed exactly 'ow he did hend, tho' some thought it were crockerdiles as swarms in them rivers as is why them blacks never

washes, as in course don't show the dirt, as is why I've knowed some parties wears black stockin's, like dirty sluts, as I considers filthy 'abits. Not as I should think any one would be such a fool as to take a 'eader into a river with a crockerdile a-waitin' for 'im with 'is jaws wide open at the bottom ready to swaller 'im; but in course some might be drove to take a leap if there wasn't nothink but lions and tigers behind 'em, a-comin' on 'em sharp in that unpertected state as any one is when just a-goin' to bathe; and whether it's a white skin or a black, they naturally likes to keep it 'ole; not but wot black is no doubt a deal tuffer, so wild beasts nat'rally prefers white. I've 'eard say as blacks always looks more dressed than white men even when not a-bathin', as is no doubt a effort of nature, as the sayin' is; cos they couldn't bear no clothes on in that 'eat."

So Brown, he says, "That will do, old lady, if you knows all about the place so well, wot do you say to a run out there?"

"Law," I says, "Brown, wot! go to a place where parties don't wear no clothes, but feathers and beads, as turns black with the 'eat of the sun a-scorchin' 'em day and night, as must be bad for the 'ead, and no doubt the reason as them niggers 'aven't only wool for 'air, as no doubt keeps the sun off the brain, as would be wus than water

a-settlin' on it, as 'ave proved fatal to many a infant at the closin' of the 'ead."

"Well, then," says Brown, "if you're afraid to go, wot do you say to me a-takin' a run out there, as is only six weeks there and back in a floatin' pallis, with a table fit for fightin' cocks."

I says, "I'm sure no fightin' cock in this world wouldn't care about wot the table was like if he was 'arf as sick as I've been in only goin' to Margit, as is only six 'ours, and never out of sight of land, tho' in course you might be drownded there the same as in a millpond, or even your own cistern, like poor Mrs. Moggin, as overreached 'erself a-tryin' to set the ball-cock right in 'er own water-butt, and was never found for 'ours, with nothin' but 'er pattens wisible to the naked eye over the 'edge, and it's a mussy the water didn't come in, or she must 'ave been drownded like a rat; but," I says, "you ain't serious, Brown, about goin' to Afriker, North nor South?"

"Well," he says, "I've 'ad a hoffer to go from our Company, and unless you don't wish me to go I shall take it, as I shall make a nice thing out of it."

I says, "Brown, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, till death us do part, is wot I've swore to, and I'll stick to my word and you all the world over, so if it's Afriker for you it's Afriker for me."

He says, "Martha, you're a trump, old gal," and he give me a kiss, and out he goes to get 'isself a bit of bacca, as he'd forgot. When he was gone I began to think as perhaps it were a bold step at my time of life to go so far to Afric's icy mountings and Greenland's coral shore; but, then I says, it's all the same where the end comes, so long as it finds you a-goin' alon' the path of dooty, as the sayin' is; tho' in course there ain't no paths in the sea to go alon'. So when I got up in the mornin' and went on deck and see myself in front of that there Table Mountin as I 'eard speak on, I did stare, for the three weeks since we left 'ome 'ad seemed to 'ave passed like a wishun in the night, as the sayin' is.

Not but wot I 'ad plenty to do, for the fust-class stewardess, Mrs. Colegate, she were took bad with asmer, when we'd been out about ten days, poor thing, as I found out as I knowed 'er own aunt well, as 'ad been out to Injier in that line afore. So I did all as I could for to 'elp 'er. Cos, tho' no great sickness aboard, there was a many as give a deal of trouble, and some as fancied themselves ill, and led their 'usban's a nice dance, and would 'ave that poor stewardess, as couldn't 'ardly draw 'er breath, always a-runnin' about for 'em, as was perpetially wantin' somethink day and night. My time was took up specially with a hinfant a month

old as 'ad come aboard at Gravesend with its ma, as were not fit to travel, and tho' Mrs. Colegate is as good a soul as ever stepped, thro' not bein' a mother 'erself, aint, when in 'ealth, no more fit to manage a hinfant than I am to go aloft to reef the yards or to man the top-gallants. I never shall forget that young mother as were on 'er way to jine 'er 'usban' at the Cape, as were a runaway match, and 'ad been ordered suddin to jine 'is reggyment. She was pretty nigh distracted for two days and nights, when we nearly all thort as the baby were a-goin' 'ome, leastways everybody, includin' the doctor, give it over, but me, as never do give up 'ope as long as there's life, partikler a hinfant, as never can be said to be dead till laid in their little graves. I must say as it were a werry nigh squeak with that child, tho' a fine boy; but I 'ave knowed sich wonderful rallies, as I kep' a comfortin' that young mother with a-tellin' 'er about 'ow I'd know'd 'em set up and smile when give over, tho' Mrs. Colegate, she did rather put me out, for while I was a-talkin' like that she'd stand and shake 'er 'ead in tears all the while. It's a mussy that old kill-joy, Mrs. Nudkins, weren't near us, or she'd 'ave done for mother and child too with 'er moans and sobs. In course she never come into the fust cabin, as I only went into to 'elp Mrs. Colegate, and then for to see this poor young

lady, thro' the doctor a-askin' me, and never took my clothes off for two nights a-watchin' every breath as might be that dear little creetur's last.

I must say as I'd 'ave done anythink in this world for to 'ave 'elped that dear lady, as didn't take and scream and faint like the corpulent party in the next cabin as were sick, in my opinion more thro' eatin' and drinkin' too much than anythink else. No, that poor young mother, she sat there like anything putrified with grief, and only said as it was all in punishment of 'er fault, thro' 'avin' disobeyed 'er parents; and never shall I forget 'er face when she came in quiet as a ghost two nights arter we crossed the line, and looked at that poor little innercent a-layin' insensible in my arms jest on twelve o'clock at night, and said in a whisper, "May I kiss 'im for the last time." I says, "Certingly, my dear, but not in my opinion as it's the last time, for I can see as there's a change in 'im for the better, as 'ave sneezed twice," as no doubt that were thro' drops of brandy as I kep' a-puttin' on 'is tung as kep' the life in 'im from time to time, as rallied jest after daybreak, and tho' weak when we got to the Cape, give every promise of makin' old bones. Even then that poor lady couldn't believe 'er senses as the child were out of danger, and wanted to make me a present of 'er gold watch and chain, as I larfed at the ideer on; and as to 'er 'usban',

as come aboard to fetch 'er, he nearly shook my 'ands off with thanks.

I must say as I were not sorry to get ashore at the Cape and stretch my legs a bit, as the sayin' is on dry land, for I aint a good 'and at walkin' the plank, as is wot everybody does at sea for hexercise.

Tho' I'd enjoyed the woyage I were disappinted at not 'avin' seen no whales nor yet sharks; but Brown he said there was lots of them aboard ship as was up to their little games, and 'ad been and cleaned some of them young fellers out of heverythink, as was reglar green'orns. I fancy they got 'old of that young Billers, not as he'd much to lose, and adn't never spoke to me, but 'ad always some of 'is reddicule when I were near, a-talkin' about fat old porpuses a-rollin' the ship over, so in course I never pertended to know 'im, tho' I heard 'im a-blowin' about 'is father's clubs, as I knowed must be benefit clubs, as I could 'ave said as 'is widder mother 'ad got a trifle from, not as I wanted to expose the young idjot.

I don't know as ever I were more took aback than when Brown read to me as Cetewayo were a-comin' 'ere with all 'is sweet.

I says, "Not them undressed, bold, bare-backed 'ussies as we see a-settin' along with 'im on that old castle over at the Cape, as was built by the Dutch,

as the English took away from 'em and 'ave kep' ever since, as did used to put old Mrs. Clooper in sich a rage, as were Dutch thro' distraction, as 'er dorter 'ad married Mrs. Minchin's son, 'as come out from Camberwell with eleven over forty years ago, as I was glad to see when we got out at the Cape, as kep' a lodgin'-'ouse, leastways 'er three dorters, as was all widders, leastways two for certain, and one doubtful, as 'ad been away over seven years, as means dead in the eye of the law, leastways so Mrs. Toomer's dorter thought, as were married in the name of Rusby, as turned up arter nine, jest in time to save 'er from biggimy, as she were on the brink, leastways as would 'ave been married the follerin' week, only the young man never turned up, not sich a fool, I thought to myself, tho' I kep' my 'ead shet, as the Yankees says, as is a cute lot, with all their faults.

I were quite at 'ome over at the Cape in livin' with Mrs. Minchin, as were like old times, tho' I must say as time 'adn't stood still with 'er, thro' 'avin' left off 'er fronts, as she couldn't bear the 'eat on, as looked better in 'er grey 'air, as I've took to myself, and were pleased to see Queen Wictorier kep' to 'er own 'air, as looks that nice in a great-grandmother, as nobody wouldn't take 'er for, with the Almynack a-pintin' of it out, as is a reminder, not as anyone wants to be reminded.

Well, as I were a-sayin', she's got a werry pretty 'ouse, and a gardin, jest out of Cape Town, as is that pretty, as we often took our teas in the harbour, as 'ave a fine sea view in front.

She's a wonderful woman to 'ave kep' up 'er readin', as knows more about wot's goin' on in Ingland than me, as always were partial to pollytics. It were a lovely evening. Me and Mrs. Minchin were a-settin' a-lingerin' over tea, as is a meal as I relishes, when I says to 'er, "Mrs. Minchin, mum, whoever is these 'ere Zulus and Basuters, as was a-makin' sich a bobbery out 'ere?"

"Oh!" she says, "they're a wild lot, as is out in the East."

"Oh!" I says, "indeed, they must be a wild lot if they're like them East End roughs at 'ome, as will break out in gangs, and come and break all the winders in 'Igh Park, the same as they did one Sunday as I remember years ago, when they kicked up a row over the pubs being shet, and right they was not to 'ave their beer cut off like that."

She says, "They're wuss than any roughs, as the perlice can soon settle; but," she says, "these Zulus is millions on millions with them Basuters for next-door naybours, as is like the Rooshins in Injier, as is only just thro' the Kibosh Pass."

"Then," I says, "why not stop that there pass, as ain't nothink more than a mere alley."

She says, "Somethink did ought to be done, or else they'll get thro', and be a-tamperin' with the Kaffirs."

"Ah!" I says, "I pities anyone as 'ave got Rooshins for naybours, jest like Old Sinful, as were a reg'lar old wooden-legged Tartar, as lived next door to us off the Bow Road, and let the parish injins loose on me, all thro' our washus flue a-takin' to smokin', as I warned Mrs. Challin agin with a 'eavy wash on, as was sheets and counterpins, and give 'er a little tin box of gunpowder." I says, "Jest put a pinch of powder in, as a thimbleful will blow it quite free," as she did accordin', as cleared the chimbly out with a puff, pot and all, as sent about 'arf a peck of sut out on it. However was I to know as Old Sinful were a-settin' agin our palin's with a couple of friends, a-smokin' of their pipes under the shadder of his own water-butt, thro' the weather bein' that sultry as nearly smothered the lot, and I'm sure I should 'ave been that sorry if he'd only 'ave mentioned it like a man; but no, he was a reg'lar Rooshin spy, and took and sent a boy, as he give a penny to, for to fetch the injins, as come a-'oopin' and a-bowlin' down the street, as I could 'ear 'em in my back parlor, as I were doin' a bit of clear-starchin' in.

I runs to the door as they knocked at, like life and death, with boys a-clamberin' over the front

rails, and the plugs all up in the road, jest in time for to 'ave the large 'ose played slap in my face, as sent me flyin' backards on the door-step drenched to the skin, and the 'ouse all flooded to the back door, and 'ad to pay a sovrin for the injin into the bargain; and all thro' a man as I've tried to be friends with, jest the same as the Rooshins, for I'm sure the fust words as ever we 'ad was thro' me a-'actin' naybourly the day arter he moved in, as was a-settin' with 'is family a-'avin' of their teas, with the back parlor winder open, as is jest over the dust'ole, as I see the led on was leanin' back on our palin's, as I knowed smelt very faint and unpleasant, as dust'oles will, partikler thro' the parties as 'ad went out, not 'avin' the dust-man reg'lar, as there's no layin' 'old on, with lobster shells thrown in constant, as will bring blue bottles in swarms, as big as donkeys, for miles round, so I gets a close-prop and gives that dust-'ole a wiolent shove, as I didn't mean so 'ard, but sent it down with a flop, as sounded werry 'oller, and 'eard some one shout out murder, with a smothery sort of woice. I gets up the steps and peeps over the palins, as is a action as I'd scorn in a general way, and wot should I see but a wooden leg a-quiverin' in the 'air, and the rest on it shet in the dust'ole, as proved to be Old Sinful, reg'lar gallinteened over 'is 'ips, right in the dust'ole,

so I stretches over and lifts up that dust'ole led for to let the old willin out, as no sooner got 'is liberty than he makes a rush at me on the steps, as he give a wiolent push, and sent me a-flyin' backard, steps and all, as must 'ave broke my back, if it 'adn't been as I broke my fall agin Mrs. Challin, as were a-comin' out with a tub of soap suds, as she were a-goin' to pour over the roots of the grape wine, and to 'ear the langwidge as that old man used to me thro' the palin's, it were enuf to make your 'air tie up in notts; and put Mrs. Challin in such a rage, as she give 'im the close-prop over 'is bald 'ead, as shet 'im up. But he's a old fool to say as I done it a purpose, cos 'ow was I to know as he were a-lookin' for a teaspoon as he missed in that dust'ole, as were only Britannier metal arter all, and not worth the trouble, as I'd make 'im a present of a dozen, as is things I 'ad when fust married, as looks green and smells unpleasant.

"But," I says, "I well remembers all about Injier and the Rooshins, not as ever I knowed as they was any ways indemnified with them Zulus."

"Nor more they ain't," says Mrs. Minchin, "no more than bein' a paraletic case."

"Well then," I says, "it's not likely as they'll get over it, not but wot it's jest as well to look arter all our enemies, specially secret murderers, like them Rooshins, cos no doub if not stopped,

they'll soon get thro' that Kibosh Pass, the same as Old Sinful's fowls did thro' that 'ole in our palin's, as I do believe as the old willin made 'isself, and come thro' a-scratchin' up every seed, and nippin' off all the young buds, and a nice row he made when I shied the fire shovel at the old cock, as I sent a-flyin' off our palin's, and knocked every feather out of 'is tail, as made 'im turn that spiteful, as he took and throwed bilin' water over our cat, as the poor thing were a-layin' on the top of our railin's, a-sayin' as she'd been a-tamperin' with his pigeons. "Why," I says, "my cat's too much the lady not to turn up her nose at everything that belongs to you," not but wot 'is spite come 'ome to 'im, for the 'ot water missed the cat, and went in the milkman's face, as were a-comin' up the airy steps with a few eggs as I did not want, as lost 'is temper, and knocked Old Sinful down with 'is yoke, as kicked over both 'is pails, and snapped 'is wooden leg off short, as were a reg'lar compounded fracter, for tho' he tied it up with waxed string, as I see 'im a-doin' from our fust pair back, as overlooks 'is washus, it werry soon snapt agin like a broken reed, as the sayin' is.

"Not but wot I always was fond of pollytics."

"So," says Mrs. Minchin, "I do 'ope they won't let that Cetewayo out, as'll take and drive us all out of the place."

Brown, as 'ad been come in, says "Not if you be'aves yourselves."

Says a young feller as boarded there, "We ain't a-goin' to 'ave a lot of beastly niggers a-talkin' to us."

"Yes," says Brown, "they've no right to their lives if you should 'appen to want 'em, nor yet to their wives if you should 'appen to fancy 'em."

That shet that young feller up, and he didn't say no more, as I were sorry for, cos I likes to 'ear all about them forrin pollytics.

"Well," says Mrs. Minchin, "troubles is a-comin' from the East, mark my words."

"O!" I says, "bother troubles, they're always a-comin' from somewheres;" as I remembers years ago as old Mrs. Bartlet did used to say, as I always said to 'er, now be sure you lets me know if you 'ears anythink about war a-breakin' out anywhere, cos I should like to 'ave the start of Brown with the news, cos he is sich a one to jeer; so she promised as she would, and so she did, as sent 'er dorter, thro' not bein' able to stop supper, and told me all about Gladstin's goin's on, as was one night soon arter Brown come in, and I says to 'im when he'd set down, "Here's a pretty 'ow d'ye do, as this 'ere Egyps is a-makin' over 'is 'ome and forrin polissy."

He says, "A deal you knows about it."

I says, "Don't jeer, Brown, as ain't argyments, and preaps I knows more than you thinks, and shall know more still, all thro' Mrs. Wells, as lives next door to Mrs. Minchin, as 'er own brother-in-law comes 'ome from the werry seat and senter of war, as is Pall Mall, to 'is tea reglar by 'arf-past four like clockwork, thro' bein' a waiter of a evenin' and as is run off 'is legs all day, as drives 'im to stimylents of a night thro' waitin' at dinners, with bottoms of bottles constant at 'is lips, so in course 'ears all the news fust, and as he won't let out till he's 'ad a drop, thro' carryin' about them war-like messages all over the place all day, as is 'auled up and down a well staircase with a strap and a basket, as even the Duke of Cambridge 'ave been known to turn pale at the sight on, and Queen Wictorier busts into tears in readin', as can't abear no wars, thro' no doubt a-dreadin' to see 'er own sons put on the gloves for to prove which is to be the Champion of Ingland, as is the noble hart of self-defence; besides that party 'ears a deal at the War Office; he picks up a good deal as parties lets drop at dinner atween, as don't mean 'im to 'ear, for they often says, "Ush! the waiter's in the room," as is things as they don't want everyone to be a-takin' it up, and that party says as it's in everybody's mouth 'ow shameful this 'ere Government is a-neglectin' every-

think, both 'ome and forrin, and one gent said as he rote to the papers to say wot did ought to be done with them Affgangs, and no notice took of 'is letter, tho' he were in Injier forty years ago, so in course knows all about it, and could show Lord Baconsfield 'is way about, as never was there; and I do wonder as Queen Wictorier don't send for them parties as rites them letters and take their advice, for as to these 'ere ministers as she's got, they ain't no more use than our Westry, as undertakes to empt your dustbin once a fortnight at the werry least, and can't get it done under a month not for love or money, tho' I always give the man tuppence, or a glass of beer, as he requires, with all that dust down 'is throat, let alone wot must run down 'is back under his fantail.

"Ah!" says Brown, "no doubt you and Mrs. Mullins and the Westry could 'elp govern the country and settle 'ome and forrin polissy with the 'elp of the dustman."

"Ah!" says I, "it's all werry fine to go up to bed with a jeer on your lips, but," I says, "I ain't one to care about no forrin polissy, and yet parties didn't ought to despise the 'elp as the poorest may give, and we all know a little 'elp is better than a deal of pity, as we don't none of us know 'ow soon we may want it, for we all remembers the story of the lion as were cort in the mouse-trap,

as would 'ave been the death of 'im if the little mouse 'adn't nored the wires and let 'im out."

"Ah," says Brown, "you and Mrs. Mullins will nore a long time afore you 'elps Goverment."

"Well," I says, "I wonders as Queen Wictorier don't sack the lot, and send for some of them as 'rites letters in the papers, and then she might go and take the chair at them meetin's as is bein' 'eld about Roosher and the Jews, as would be somethink to do of a evenin', and be a nice change for 'er, as must lead a dull life arter all, shet up constant in them castles, as is gloomy places even for a Queen; but," I says, "as to them Zulus, no doubt they're like all the Affgangs, and all the other gangs, as is in gen'ral either coiners or gipsies, as did used to be smugglers, as was werry often pressgangs, as I've 'eard my dear mother say carried off a uncle of 'ern, as only stepped out arter dark to fetch a 'aporth of milk for treacle posset for the child, as were fractious with 'is teeth, and never come back for fifteen years, and nothink found but the 'andle of the jug, as 'ad been broke in the struggle, as was the French wars, and there wasn't much on 'im left when he did come back, with only a woodin leg and a 'ook for a arm, and as to 'is eye, nothink wisible but a black patch, with 'is morils underminded, and 'is langwidge that bad as you couldn't set in the room with 'im. So in course I don't 'old with no

gangs, whether arf gangs or not, and don't fancy no forriners, whether arf-casts or ole, as is a deceitful race, as well I know, thro' Jane Sedley's 'usban, as were a reg'lar forriner thro' bein' brort up a French-polisher, and as double-faced as any mask; and as to them Injins, I 'ates 'em all, whether they're Red Injins or parish injins, as will come a-tearin' thro' the streets a-knockin' you over, a-bowlin' along with them of 'ome polissy, as is wot I 'olds with, and turned out well for Mrs. Slingsby, as were left destitute when Slingsby were took sudden, all but 'is life insurance, as, tho' it didn't pertect 'is life, give 'er five 'underd pounds, as she took and sunk for forty pounds a year.

As to Brown a-talkin' about me a-'elpin' Goverment with their 'ome and forrin polissy, I don't know much about forrin parts, thro' only a flyin' wisit to Italy and Paris, but knows Margit well, as is the same thing as forrin parts now, as it swarms so with them niggers, as 'ave made their 'omes on the sands there, as no doubt reminds them of their native dessert; but as to Rooshins bein' rewengeful, they're child's play to Old Sinful, as is wuss than Tipper Saib for plottin' agin you, and is wuss abroad than at 'ome, and I do believe went down to Margit to lay in wait for me, and took lodgin's in the same 'ouse, as was a double second floor, as commanded the bathin', as was wisible ever so far

as the naked eye could reach, and reg'lar dodged me about wherever I was a-goin', and took and grounded me agin the wall in comin' downstairs, a-givin' of me the cold shoulder, as the sayin' is, in passin'; and shan't never forget 'is mallis on the sands when I were out on a donkey, as wouldn't go, leastways, I couldn't make it, and was a-tryin' for to get 'im out of a walk, and Old Sinful, as 'ad been a-'idin' behind a bathing-masheen, and steps out and says, "I'll make 'im go!" and gives the poor thing a wiolent prog, as give the poor creetur that hagony as he rushed on 'eadlong, and would 'ave carried me out to sea if 'is guths 'adn't give way under 'im, as sent me a-rollin' into the 'oles, as was full of sea-water, as is where them children is a-makin' of them sand-banks, as the donkey took and pitched me slap on the top on; and didn't them young wretches walk into me with their spades till I was able to get up, bruised frightful.

Everybody'll be a-goin' to the sea-side. In course, now as King Cetewayo is a-comin', there'll be grand doin's on the sands everywheres about, as would like one of them sand castles to live in, as I must say as I wonder they don't wait to bring 'im thro' that there Channel Tunnel, as is a-comin' on that rapid, and he would stare to walk thro' the water, as is not 'is native helefant, but rubs 'isself

in the sand the same as fowls, as all does it, down to the cock-sparrers.

Not as Cetewayo were cort like a cock-sparrer, with a pinch of salt on 'is tail, but arter 'ard fightin', as Mrs. Minchin were a-sayin'; not but wot the Channel Tunnel shet 'er up when fust she got 'ome, as come along with us arter forty years long, not as she went all the way with us, but met in Camdin Town at 'er own sister's at tea. As to that tunnel under the sea, it'll take a deal to make me think as it's water-tight.

It certingly did give me a turn when I 'eard as the Prince and Princess of Wales 'ad been took down along with the rest of the Royal Family, as the sayin' is, into that tunnel, and would no doubt 'ave been took over to France, only it were not finished, so might 'ave sprung into a leek, as always comes up quite suddin, the same as Old Boppin's barge in Dagenem Creek, as 'im and 'is wife lived aboard, and as they all went to bed in 'ealth, as they was washed out of afore daylight, as they all thort must 'ave been thro' rats a-borin' a 'ole thro' 'er bottom, as never was considered waterproof, but that obstinate, as he wouldn't 'ave 'er over'auled, so nearly lost their lives, with three grandchildren, and tho' they did manage to bung it up with tow and pitch, floundered within three months off Horsleydown, in a 'igh tide and 'alf a

gale, like the "Royal George," leastways, so said Mrs. Dupple, as were Boppin's niece, as 'appened to drop in jest as I were a-speakin', as was relations to Mrs. Boppin's mother, thro' the sister's side, and might 'ave been aboard that barge 'erself, tho' only a hinfant in arms at the time as the "Royal George" took and 'eeled over, as I've 'eard my dear mother speak on often, thro' a cousin of 'ern, as stood godfather to me, bein' werry near aboard, if he 'adn't been and took French leave, as the sayin' is, and slipped ashore to see 'is sweet'art, as were too ill to come off and see 'im along with the others as reg'lar flocked aboard on 'er, and come to a untimely end with all 'ands. I 'ave 'eard say as that godfather of mine never got no penshun, tho' not a-darin' to show 'isself, for fear as he might be strung up for a deserter.

Mrs. Dupple, as knows all about wessels, thro' bein' a bumboat woman, tho' now retired on 'er savin's, she don't consider as that there tunnel ever can be made reg'lar waterproof.

"Why," I says, "for that matter injy-rubber would do it easy, and be quite as safe as goin' in that balloon, with nothink in it but sandwiches and Pollyharis water, as I calls bein' fool'ardy myself, tho' no doubt a party as is full of pluck, as I like to see. But in my opinion, if they wants to make a tunnel, why not to Ireland, as we wants to

be united to a deal more than France, and could go over jest like Scotland, and Queen Wictorier might 'ave a pallis there, and one of 'er sons might be the Wiceroy, as they calls 'im, and then all the other swells would go there too, and be a-'untin' and a-shootin' all over the place all day long. Cos in course sea-sickness is werry disagreeable for any one, specially a queen, as can go to Scotland without, and if it were dry land all way, no doubt Queen Wictorier would go the same as Scotland, and 'ave a castle there, as would please the people, partikler if she'd go to their church of a Sunday, like Scotland."

"Why," says Brown, "she goes to the Scotch Church, cos she's the 'ead on it, the same as the Church of the English, as is 'er quarrel with the Pope, cos he won't let 'er be 'ead of the Catholic, as is the Irish religion."

I says, "Well, she ain't much of a 'ead to the English, for she don't seem to be able for to keep the parsons in no order, as sets 'er at defiance, and won't give in, tho' she puts 'em in prisin, cos they will 'ave Roman candlesticks, and all manner, as she don't 'old with in the Church; and them things as the Bishops says didn't 'ort to be, the parsons says did ort."

Says Brown, "It's a nice mess altogether, as I don't know 'ow they'll settle it."

"Well," I says, "now as Jumbo is clean off, Parlymint will 'ave more time for other things, as in course they couldn't think about as long as that poor thing were in a state of suspension 'angin' over their 'eads, as took up not only Parlymint's time, but every one else's; not as I were a-goin' to get up at three in the mornin', like Miss Pilkinton, for to see 'im off, as 'ad a 'ansom to 'erself all the way to the Docks, as two ruffs got into near Pentonwill, and set on 'er lap, a-smokin' short pipes, while three was a-'angin' on behind, as set the cabman at defiance, leastways, he said so, tho' in my opinion it were a reg'lar collishun atwixt 'im and them ruffs, as I could not pity Miss Pilkinton, as only did it for to get 'erself in the papers, not as she were the party as watched 'is keeper a-turnin' away blowin' 'is nose, and poured the pint of beer up 'is trunk, leastways, down it, from a second floor winder, as I calls takin' a mean advantage, and went the rong way, and ketched 'is breath, like a 'uman bein'. So he snorted it back all over 'er, and reg'lar drenched 'er to the skin."

It's been as much as my life's worth to even illude to Noah's ark afore Brown, cos he'd fancy I were a-goin' to bring up animals; for he turned reg'lar sulky over supper, as would take it in 'is 'ead as I were a-drivin' at Jumbo, in illudin' to vory dust, and reg'lar lost 'is temper when I said

as the wind were right for bein' at sea, as 'ave reg'lar put the clotoor on 'im, as means shet up, and I do think will be a good thing in Parlymint, tho' a reg'lar sell for Old Gladstin, as is so fond of listenin' to 'is own jaw, and then reads it all over agin, as 'ave been touched up for to appear in the papers to 'is family at breakfast, and no doubt gives a scowl at 'is good lady if she shets down the teapot with a crash, and there ain't a soul on 'em as would dare drop 'is knife; and as to sneezin' or corfin', it's as much as their places is worth, as sets no doubt, a-bustin' into their pocket-'ankerchers, if their teas was to go the rong way, thro' drinkin' with a bit of toast in their mouths. So when this 'ere shet up bisness comes into play, and the Speaker drops on to sweet Willyam, jest as he's a goin' to give a insult to somebody, won't he fly in a rage, and dash out of the 'ouse to go 'ome and 'ave a pint and a pipe on the quiet, with 'is pal Bradlor, as is always a-skulkin' about them passidges, a-tryin' if he can't sneak in some'ow, like a polecat, and make isself offensive.

It's 'igh time as Parlymint were puttin' a stop to a-pertendin' to make laws, and then wastin' the time over, as don't know no more about makin' laws than a brickmaker does about tinkerin'; and sich laws as they makes, so full of 'oles, as any one can drive a coach and six thro, as the sayin' is,

leastways, that's wot Brown says, in chaffin' of 'is friend Pellit, as is a bit of a Rad, leastways, did used to be, till Brown cured 'im on it, in pintin' out wot a set of 'umbugs goes in for Liberals, till they finds it don't pay, or they gets a place. Cos there's a good riddance now in old John Bright, as did used to be that solim in 'is 'at for to show as he's a Quaker. Yet don't mind supportin' of a army and navy in idleness, nor yet taxes, as is wot Quakers sets their faces agin; cos I remembers well a instance at Chelsea, as wouldn't pay 'is taxes, but let the party as gathered them take a spoon, or a somethink up to the value, to show 'is principles, as if that weren't the same as payin' money, and jest like John Bright. Likewise, there's Dilke, as Brown 'ad the best larf over that there radical Dilke, as did used to be a-cryin' down with the Royal Family, and a-wantin' a republic, but Old William knowed 'ow to gag 'im, to give 'im a place, and then Dilke he took and sneaked out of the way, when they took the wote for the Dook of Olbonny, as is principles all over. Not but wot Brown says it's werry much the same all the world over, as every man 'ave got 'is price, as I well remembers a-'earin' speak of a parson many years ago, as was dead agin the Catherlics 'avin' their consciences free, but when he were made a Bishop 'isself, why, he see things in another pint, and woted for 'em bein' let believe wotever they liked.

I do think for all that as if there were a tunnel atween us and the Irish as we should get on better, cos as to Mrs. Patten a-sayin' as they're bad naybours, she don't know nothink about it; and 'ow would she like to be called beastly Inglish, and 'ave 'er dorter in goin' after a place be told as no Hinglish need apply, and all them insults, the same as poor Biddy Grady 'ad to put up with, as cried fit to break 'er 'art over it, and it ain't no fault if the Hirish likes to work out in the open hair better than bein' stived up in a close room, or doin' 'ouse work; for I'm sure I never did see a dairy kep' so lovely as one over in Ireland, as were like print, and the cows that fond of the dairy-maids, and come to be milked jest like lambs a-be'avin' as if they was old friends, as the calves looked on like mothers.

Where I likes the Irish is in sickness, as never seemed to be tired nor cross over any one as is ill, and that fond of children and a-treatin' of their parints that respectful, tho' 'ot tempers I'll allow, and 'ave knowed Mrs. Grady shy a flat ion at 'er boy Tim, as cort 'im between 'is bladebones, and sent 'im 'ead fust into the cradle, as would 'ave smashed the baby, if the weight 'adn't turned the lot over, and shot the hinfant right over the boy under the grate, as give Mrs. Grady a lesson, tho' she did warm Tim for it with the copper stick;

leastways, would 'ave if I 'adn't stopped 'er, a-pintin' out as it were too 'ard for a boy's back as were only jest nine, and would keep that babby good by the 'our together on a doorstep in all weathers, as is wot makes poor people's children so 'ealthy, bein' constant in the hair, and as to bad smells 'urtin' 'em, I do believe as they thrives on 'em, as there's many a fine lady would be a 'ealthy mother if she'd a day or two a week at the wash-tub, instead of lollin' all day on a sofy and afeard to put 'er foot to the ground, as if she were a 'ot-'ouse plant, a-eatin' and drinkin' all day, and then carried to bed at night.

"No," I says, "I've knowed as good Hirish as ever trod shoe leather, and I'll speak up for 'em, if they was Jews, as is kind-'arted people all the world over."

Says Mrs. Patten, "Lor, Mrs. Brown, I've 'eard say as you was death on the No Rent Party."

I says, "That's true, that is cos I 'olds as parties did ort to pay all their debts, rents included, or else 'ow can the landlords live and bring up 'is family? So," I says, "you needn't believe a word of it, nor yet them as says as I'm one of them as 'ave objections to the sons of Herrin', as the sayin' is, as tells gross false'oods, tho' in course I'm agin murder everywhere, for as I were a-sayin' to Mrs. Pulman only the week afore last, as set up in bisness,

and advertised for a maid-of-all-work, as they calls now-a-days a general servant, and put in no Hirish need apply.

I says, "You'll escuse me, mum, but tho' you are in the straw and fancy line, I considers that a werry nasty remark as is uncalled for, nor yet the thing for to say of any one, for we can't 'elp where we're born nor bred, and I'm sure you wouldn't like it yourself, as ain't a-doin' as you're done by, and wouldn't like your own feelin's 'urt like that, in anyone a-flingin' your native land like dirt in your face," for I knowed as she were touchy over bein' 'arf-cast 'erself, with a complexion the colour of treacle, and woolly-'eaded, like the stuffin' out of my black 'orse 'air arm-chair, as come thro' a 'ole in the bottom, as I'm sure was that gal Nancy Edwards a-standin' on it, agin my orders, when my back were turned to look out of the back parlour winder, as got a view of the cricket ground over Old Sinful's back wall, as wouldn't open from the bottom, thro' me 'avin' of it screwed down, when Liza were a-stoppin' with me over three months with 'er children, for fear of 'er eldest, as was jest on three, and would 'ang out on it for to watch the rabbits in the next door garding, as is things I won't never keep myself, as is stupid fools never to know you except with a cabbidge leaf, and werry unpleasant in their 'utches if kep' ever so clean; as to eatin'

anythink as I'd made a pet on, I couldn't do it any more than if it were a kitten, not even in a pie, if I were starvin', as is tasteless things in my opinion, and the only way to eat 'em is smothered in onions, and then wild about twice a year.

Well, Mrs. Pulman she were werry short with me a-thinkin' as I were illudin' to 'er bein' touched with the tar brush, as the sayin' is, and tho' she do say as 'er father and mother come from the West Hinges, yet was both lilies for fairness, all as I can say as it must 'ave been the 'eat over there, tho' she always declares as she was born in Horseleydown, were they kep' a public, tho' never a-denyin' as 'er father were steward aboard one of them West Hingy packets, and 'er mother ladysmaid to a passenger.

So she says to me "You're werry fond of the Hirish, Mrs. Brown."

I says, "I'm fond of all them as is kind to me, and tho' only once in Dublin and jest round it, I shan't never forget the 'appy time as I spent, tho' seldom gettin' up in the mornin' without a 'ead ache, as were no doubt owin' to the hair bein' that bracin', and me not a-gettin' to bed that early as I'm used to, for of all the good company as ever I did know them Hirish beats 'em all to fits, as the sayin' is."

"Well," says Mrs. Pulman, "crimes isn't

punished over there except it's the roughian, and I don't like 'em with the shootin' you behind a wall cos they don't want to pay you your rent, as nobody's life ain't safe there."

I says, "Don't go to talk like that about murders not bein' found out and innercent parties punished for 'em, for I'm sure them as 'ave took place over 'ere is bad enuf, and it give me quite a turn one day some years ago a-walkin' thro' Greenwich when I see the name of Pook over a shop door, to think of wot 'appened there many years ago, and 'ow near a innercent young man were 'anged for the murder of a young gal in a lane as leads to Blackheath, as he 'adn't no 'and in at all, and nothink agin 'im, but only a whistle as they'd been and picked up near the spot, as might have been anybody else's, in course. Cos we all know as you couldn't 'ang anyone on a whistle, as is a thing as you couldn't indemnify anybody by, and shows as your life ain't safe even in Ingland with all your boastin'; when you may be tried for your life for only 'avin' a whistle, as anybody must 'ave knowed as that young man were as innercent as the babe unborn, as the sayin' 'is, as rote to his parents out of prisin that lovely pious everythink about the excellent discourse as he'd 'eard, and 'ad the minister of the parish ritin' to say everybody did ort to believe 'im innercent cos he said

as he were everythink as he did ought to 'ave been."

So that's why I always says don't talk to me about murders of innercents in Ireland, anymore than that Germin minister as were took up for that Coram Street murder, as were a-reg'lar saint, and Queen Wictorier 'erself took and begged 's parding for 'avin' of 'im took up, and got a 'ansome sum of money, poor feller, as proved 'is innercence.

And then jest think of the child murder as is orfull in Ingland, and a deal wuss than a landlord, as shows sich a black-'arted wretch of a mother; not but they seems to like 'em for it in Ingland, for they won't 'ang 'em, and didn't that cold-blooded wretch as strangled 'er child some months old with a bit of tape and throwed it in a pond, and then went off by the train, and carried on 'er games for days at Carlisle with a party she met at a dancin' saloon, and all the time were engaged to a respectable young man as 'adn't no suspicion of the child, as she murdered, so as he shouldn't never find it out, and were left for death, and then some cantin' 'umbugs got a partition agin 'er bein' 'anged, and she were let off, and p'raps will marry a minister in the end, arter she's got 'er ticket, as is wot some parties calls repentance, and quotes scripter for to support sich wretches as in my opinion 'angin' is too good for.

But I says, "If ever you do get a reg'lar good red 'ot murder, it's them pious parties, like that old willin' of a parson at Brixton as murdered his wife of a Sunday evenin', and in course couldn't be 'anged cos he were a minister, and some parties were a-snivellin' over, and a-sayin' as he'd only 'ad one friend to come and see 'im all the time as he were in prisin, as if anyone were likely to go and see sich a good-for-nothing old butcher.

"And if you comes to crime don't talk of Ireland, as Scotland can beat in a canter, as the sayin' is, for I shan't never forget that there doctor as murdered his wife and then talked afore he were 'ung of meetin' of 'er in 'eaven. The Scotch 'ave got sense, and ain't a set of snivellin' duffers, but took and hanged the willin like men, and so they would any other saint, if they was to come any of them murderin' capers, as is a deal too sharp to let sich fellers off.

"Not as the Scotch is in a 'urry to 'ang either, cos see 'ow that Maglin Smith, a-many years ago, got off thro' it not bein' provin, as means not brought 'ome to 'er, as she pisoned that Frenchman, and then in course when young ladies does sich things they must be got off, or made mad like that vile 'ussy as pisoned the parties with chocolate at Brighton, as did ought to 'ave been 'ung if she'd 'ad fifty necks, a cold-blooded filthy wretch."

So I says, "Don't talk to me about murders in Ireland not bein' found out, cos them as lives in glass 'ouses did not ought to throw stones, as the sayin' is."

Mrs. Pulman she was put out, and says, "Oh! in course you knows the Newgate Cullender by 'art."

I says, "No I don't, but I ain't no patience with 'umbug, and can't a-bear to see poor people bein' punished and rich ones get off, not but wot for my part I'd 'ang any mothers, rich or poor, as murdered their children, and as to bein' mad when they done it, why, if they was to lock 'em up for life and not let 'em out when they've got over their fit, cos they might go mad agin, and preaps murder their 'usbans next time, as I'm sure I shouldn't never fancy a wife a-comin' back to me as 'ad murdered my children thro' jealousy; and wots more I wouldn't 'ave 'er—not if she was called cured by all the Bedlams in the world."

Says Mrs. Pulman, "Anyone would think as you 'ad Hirish blood in your wains to 'ear you talk."

"Well," I says, "I don't know as I ain't, for," I says, "my dear mother 'ad a aunt as 'er second 'usban were Hirish, in the name of Carroll, as run away with 'im; leastways, he carried 'er off, as were a lighterman, as must run in the line, for Mr.

Candy, the turncock, 'ad 'is wife run away from 'im with the lamplighter, as were named Jobbles, and that used to run away with his ladder on 'is shoulder, as he didn't care wot he picked up and carried off.

"But both come to bad end, as walked into the Surrey Canal, a-crossin' the fields close agin the New Kent Road, and found drowned was the verdict, as they give thro' bein' both stopped by the lock gates, as wouldn't shet proper, and not one of them Hirish either side."

"Well," says Mrs. Pulman, "you may stick to the Hirish, but I won't 'ave 'em."

"Ah!" I says, "I suppose if you was over in Merryker you'd rather 'ave the niggers back."

She says, "Wot do you mean by that?"

"Why," I says, "in course blood is thicker than water, as the sayin' is."

She says, "I ain't got no nigger blood in me."

I says, "You ought to know best, for I never see your blood, and don't want to."

She says, "Oh! now you're put out."

I says, "Not at all."

She says, "Oh! yes you are, as is Inglish all over, that prejerdice as won't see nothink but wot you wishes to see."

"Well," I says, "I likes that. Here, I've been

in Ireland, and you never 'ave, and yet you abuses the people as you don't know nothink about."

"Oh!" she says, "I reads the papers."

I says, "Wot papers? the Hirish ones, in course?"

She says, "No, the Inglish ones, as is good enuf for me."

I says, "Why, there never ain't room in them for no Hirish news, unless it's some row, or somethink like that, as is partikler disagreeable; and as to Hirish over in Merryker," I says, "that's why I wanted for to go to Ireland agin, cos I must say as the Hirish over in Merryker ain't that pleasant in their ways, the same as they are in Ireland."

So when Brown were a-talkin' of goin', and wanted me to come, I says, "I really must think about it."

He says, "Think away, but mind I starts on Monday week, so you must be ready for the mail, as 'll leave Euston at eight o'clock at night."

I says, "I don't think as I can be ready, for I've 'ad my 'ands that full, wot with that Cetewayo and gettin' of the 'ouse ready for Liza, as I'm glad is safe 'ome agin', and Jumbo afloat at last."

Not as I see much of that hanimal as nearly brort on a Merrykin war, for I can't a-bear a crowd any more than Queen Wictorier, as never come up to town to see 'im 'erself, as no doubt she

will Cetewayo, but 'owever could she be espected to give up 'er pallis to 'im. The same as that Shah when he come over, and in course don't want to sleep in Buckinem Pallis, and 'ave to go and spend the day along with 'er son, as 'ave 'is 'ouse full enuf already, not but no doubt any of the nobility would be glad to 'ave 'im and lend 'im their night things, the same as that stockbroker did to Queen Wictorier over in Italy, as in course 'ad nothink but lords and ladies along with 'er as ain't like Cetewayo's follerers, as ain't got no night things, nor day things neither, for that matter.

As to them a-goin' to Marolburrer 'Ouse, there's not room for all them royal young people, as is too old for the nursery, and is a-outgrowin' the schoolroom, partikler with their royal brothers a-comin' 'ome, as 'ave seen nearly all the world and 'is wife, as the sayin' is, as 'll all want apartments to theirselves, as can't spare the 'ouse-keeper's room, nor yet fit up for them the servants' 'all.

Not but wot that Duke of Edinburrer must 'ave room enuf to take them two boys in, thro' bein' that backbone sailor, preaps he 'ave been and fitted the place like a man-o'-war for 'em, with nothink but 'ammocks to sleep in, and all manner of sea-farin' ways, and nothink to eat but salt junk, as is washed down with grog, as wouldn't suit Queen

Wictorier nor me neither, as ain't got the teeth for junk; and as to cold rum and water, it's as bad as pisin to me, tho' a fine thing at sea, and keeps off the scurvy, and I must say will do good took 'ot and strong with a bad cold a-goin' to bed, and some say a lump of butter in it is a fine thing for to relieve the chest.

So I give up Ireland jest for the present, and 'ad my 'ands full, I can tell you, for to get Brown ready, and didn't think as ever I should be, for, I says, "If I goes I'll wear everythink green, includin' of my wail, as will be a compliment to the Hirish," the same as the Princess of Wales, as were covered all over with shamrocks, as is the same as Hirish dimons, but looks werry well for all that.

Not as I espect as ever I shall be took for the Princess of Wales, bless 'er 'art, as ain't the same complexion, let alone the time of life, tho' parties 'as often told me I do not look my age, and I do believe as it's my sperrits as keeps me young, for there's nothink like sperrits to keep you cheerful in this world; and there was old Mrs. Beales, as lived in the 'Ackney Road, she took and set up in 'er bed, a-keepin' of 'er ninety-fourth birthday, as she'd kep' for over eighteen months, and would 'ave a bowl of punch arter supper, and sung Rule Britannier, and 'Ere's a 'Ealth to the King, and wouldn't be put down, tho' 'er grandson did tell 'er

as it were a Queen now, she said, "Oh! the King's quite good enuf for me, as see 'im myself drive down the 'Ammersmith Road on 'is way to Kew, with Queen Charlotte by his side, and the Princess Amelia on is knee, as drove him mad thro' a-dyin', as is a melancholy story, and 'ad better not be talked about."

So that's why I always keeps up my sperrits, in case I should live to be ninety-four and bed-ridden into the bargain, so as to be as little of a noosance as possible; and Brown, he've took care as I shan't be ill-used, thro' a-buyin' me a 'nuity, as will die with me, and make them as is about me civil, and want to keep me alive; for I remembers a old gent as were used shameful at past ninety, thro' 'is old wretch of a 'ousekeeper, as he'd purvided for a-wantin' 'im dead, so as she might enjoy 'erself, as is all nat'ral enuf, as everyone should look out for theirselves, as is 'uman natur'; and if parties ain't got no principles for to guide 'em, they'd kill anyone as stood in their way, so as to get rid on 'em; as is in course horful to them as don't believe in no world to come nor nothink like that, cos in course they're all right, wotever they may do, so long as they keeps clear of the gallus in this life.

I 'ain't no patience with sich rubbish bein' talked, and whyever even gentlemen and sichlike

don't take up pollytics I can't think; but I suppose them as is born lords and sichlike won't work.

"Ah," says, Brown, "more's the pity for them and the country too; cos if they was in command they'd keep ahead of a lot of chaps as ain't got a brass farden, but 'ave got brains, and industry, too, as well as lots of cheek, and so works theirselves up to the front."

"Well," I says, "that's right; it's cheek as is arf the battle."

"Yes," says Brown, "right enuf, only it's bad when parties as ain't got a penny to bless theirselves goes in for pollytics, and makes a trade on 'em, the same as Horsetrailier, as will pull off their coats in their Parlymint for a fight, and pull the boat over, too, in all a-strugglin' to be at the 'elm, or all a-wantin' to pull stroke."

"Well," I says, "there's something rotten in the state of Dunkirk, as the man said in the play, for some parties says as it's all the fault of the Lords, whilst others lays it to the Commons, as goodness knows is common enuf, from Gladstin down'ards, as never 'ad no grandfather to speak on, cos he was only a boy aboard a wessel as run 'tween Liverpool and Greenock, as is the reason as 'is manners is that common as he don't know 'ow to be'ave, as is no doubt the reason as Queen Wictorier puts up with 'is rude ways."

Says Brown, "Where you do git your information from, Martha, I can't think."

"Why," I says, "Liverpool, in course, as there's parties a-livin' there as their parents well remembers Gladstin's grandfather, and knowed all about 'is family, as come from Greenock or somewheres about, as old Mrs. McCollun, as is ninety-four, always says, and turns up 'er nose at 'em, a-sayin' as they ain't no name nor yet family, as 'ave come in a strait line 'erself from the blood royal, and wouldn't wisit a aunt of them Gladstins, tho' she lived next door to them on the Clyde, somewheres in Scotland."

"Ah!" says Brown, "if some of them dooks and blood royals 'ad 'ad the brains of these 'ere skippers' boys, they'd 'ave their places, Mrs. Brown."

I says, "I knows it, Mr. B., for wasn't there young Chittin, as went into old Foxall's office for a drudge, as rose to be pardner, whilst the old man's grandsons was copyin' clerks with thirty shillin's a week, and not boots to their feet, and 'im a-goin' 'ome in his own carridge, as he certingly do deserve the credit of."

But as I were a-sayin' about King Cetewayo, he'll make 'em stare at the Drorin'-Room if he goes in 'is full uniform, as is only a band of red feathers round 'is 'ead, with a tiger skin over 'is shoulders,

fastened round 'is throat with a lump of solid gold, and sandals; cos in course he'll wear 'is best things, tho' they ain't many as he's got. In course he'll be werry glad to see them young Princes, as he'll know quite well.

Talking of tunnels, it's a pity as the Tems Tunnel ain't wacant, as would be the werry spot for Cetewayo to 'ave 'ad a grand pallis in, with a thurrer draft thro' it, as is wot he's used to, tho' it might strike cold to 'im; tho' in course there's warmin'-pans; or he might sleep in a bath, with the gas-stove under 'im, as would warm 'im up. Not as I should care to live in a tunnel myself. In course tunnels is all werry well in their way for gettin' them 'eavy weights thro' mountings as you can't get over, and spares both wind and limb to them as is fleshy, the same as 'Ighgate Harchway, as made Dick Whittinton pull up and rest, as were 'ow he come to be thrice Lord Mare of London, as only shows as we didn't never ort to be in too great 'urry to get on in this world.

As to a tunnel as will jine us on to France, I do not 'old with it, as it's all the sea as no doubt as keeps off them riverlutions, as spreads that rapid if once started; not but wot in course it might be stopped easy, the same as I well remembers one at Box 'Ill, as were shet up thro' a stoppage of a single carridge with all the Judges inside, as were kep' in

a state of suspension for 'ours, all in the dark, as throwed them out, thro' bein' pressed for time and in a wiolent 'urry to get on for to 'ang a lot of willins at Taunton, besides somebody throwed out at Bristol, as no doubt deserved it; not as I'm bloodthirsty like Mother Brownrigg, nor yet not like that fieldmale as killed the King in Shakespear —leastways would 'ave killed 'im, if 'er 'usban 'adn't took the job out of 'er 'ands, as I considers a disgrace to 'er sect, as I should say were Free Kirk, cos I knowed an old lady up in Scotland as 'er religion were that fierce thro' belongin' to it, and made all 'er family believe everythink wot she did, and give 'er grandson a good spankin' with the 'oly shovel cos she cort 'im a-lookin' out of the winder on Sunday, as she said were breakin' the Sabbath, and as the next thing he'd be wantin' would be to go for a walk with sinners thro' the cornfields, as no early Christshun wouldn't never 'ave thort of doin'; and when I said as I thort I 'ad read of sich a thing bein' done in the Bible, she said as she didn't think it were translated right, and any'ow, it were a great mistake, whoever done it.

I thinks to myself, as you're a bigoted, ignorant old fool, but didn't wish to espose 'er before the boy, as might make 'im turn agin religion altogether, as a-many 'ave done when away from 'ome; as a chap I

met out in Horsetrailier, as 'is family come from Scotland, and said he were a kurnel in the Merrykin army, as was a-turnin' of the Bible into redicule, cos he'd been so dosed with it as a boy, and a-showin' of it up to be full of herrors, as said as religion were a explosive theery as no enlightened parties didn't believe in now-a-days. "Ah!" I says, "no doubt you're werry enlightened, you are, and if you don't mind will end in bein' blown up with your own esplosives."

But I must say as this 'ere Channel Tunnel under the sea come upon me like a thunderbolt, and the fust time as Brown mentioned it casual over tea, as nearly made me drop the kittle on the cat, thro' not bein' able 'ardly to believe my senses, as sounds like presumption, a-underminin' of the oshun.

I didn't 'ardly believe it, and I'm sure that poor 'eathen black won't, not till he sees it, as ain't never read nothink, and ain't got no books, and couldn't read 'em if he 'ad, as must be a sing'ler sensation not to know no more of your four fathers nor your aunts and sisters except wot a old nuss might tell you, as would most likely stuff you up with a lot of rubbish.

Not as they wants their family 'istories, as would be ork'ard for to read aloud of a evenin'; cos jest fancy Prince Leepold a-readin' to 'is royal ma and

sister as their grandpa were a reg'lar murderer, as cut off all 'is brothers, and as to sisters, never knowed if he 'ad any, cos they turns all the field-males of the family into wives, as is a degraded lot, and jest like cattle.

I don't suppose as Cetewayo 'll think much of our cattle arter 'is own; and as to our fightin-men, he'd like to 'ave 'em all stripped, so as he might judge of their legs, as he'd 'ave all the bandy ones broke. In course by the time as he gets 'ere he'll be used to a ship; but they won't never get 'im up in a balloon, nor yet down in a divin'-bell, now as the Pollytecnick is done away; and as to goin' thro' that Channel Tunnel, he'd larf 'em to scorn if they was to illude to it, not as he's a coward, werry much the reverse, leastways so the Inglish sojers told me, and that's why them parties at the Cape is in such a fright at 'is bein' set free, cos they can't bully 'im and steal 'is cattle.

But as to that Channel Tunnel, in course it will be a wonder of the world, like the Perrymids did used to be, and the fust time as I 'eard about it, I thought were a lark, partikler rememberin' well as the Tems Tunnel 'ad been give up, as I went to see myself many years ago, along with a lady friend, as were that terrified at 'earin', as she thort, the water a-comin' in at the other end, that she took to 'er 'eels and bolted all the way back, and never stopped

till she got to the top of them stairs, as was a tremenjous flight, and then found 'er in a dead faint, with 'er face that deadly white, as the doctor, as were called out from 'is tea to see 'er, said were only a state of cromer as she was in, and that child, tho' not born till six months arter, wasn't never 'ealthy from the fust, and died under three, as was water on the brain, and all the rest 'ad weak eyes, as watered constant.

So in course I've always 'ad a 'orrer of tunnels under the water, as settled on that poor thing, and as to makin' one between Dover and Callis, why, it would make Queen Lizzybeth's blood bile and turn in 'er grave, as I should say she'd like to 'ave a chance of doin' as 'er last words, as she said would be found 'rote on 'er 'art, was, "Load me well and keep me clean, and I'll carry a ball to Callis Green," as was put on 'er fav'rite gun, as she always carried about 'er, and called it 'er pocket pistol, as is wot Mrs. Coldin did used to call a little bottle as she carried in 'er pocket, as she said, were roomatic winegar, as she took and dropped in the Perlice Court on the stone floor, that time as she took up 'er gal for stealin', as was rum all over the place, and a-smellin' that strong, as the magistret said nearly took away 'is breath, and made a coloured gent bust into tears, cos it reminded 'im so of his grandmother's tea time, as he'd only jest

berried, poor soul, as 'ad kep' a oyster stall in Poplar, as was friendly with all the sailors, thro' 'avin' nussed a rear admiral, as was throwed from 'is 'orse in the Heast Hinges, besides a-many on 'em from death's door in the yaller fever, as is always a-breakin' out where she come from, as the only way to save anyone's life is to starve 'em to death, not but wot old rum is a fine thing for a cold made in punch, without too much lemon, and bilin' water, with sugar to taste, and took 'ot in goin' to bed, tho' I couldn't fancy a lump of butter stirred up in it, cos I tried it once, as cured my cold, but made me that bilious as I should say would be pison to anyone as like our cat 'aven't a strong stomick, as wouldn't touch a bit of fat, and turns up 'er nose at cream, as Liza sent from Devonshire, tho' as reg'lar for 'er milk as a Christshun, thro' never findin' no cream a-'angin' about that, and never knowed to lick the butter, tho' put down on the dresser close beside 'er, as ain't a animal to take no mean advantage of a new servant, as ain't up to my ways, in 'avin' everythink put in the safe the moment as it's took in on a clean plate, except a stake, as a board is best for, cos earthenware draws the gravy out, as I in general 'angs up, thro' 'avin' of it in the 'ouse a day or two afore wantin' it, as makes it tender. I can't abear 'avin' it beat to death with the rollin'-pin as reg'lar makes it

pappy and no flavour. I wouldn't 'ave a stake fried for the world, nor yet done before the fire any more than a chop, as there ain't no two ways of cookin', as must be the gridiron, and not a flary fire, and sent up one by one, 'ot and 'ot. A dish full of chops, swimmin' in their own grease, is a thing as I wouldn't set afore my bitterest enemy, as I considers as it's a sin for to spile good wittles, tho' it might be good enuf for a enemy as were bound to feed if a perishin' of 'unger, tho' to give 'im a 'arty meal might be 'is death 'arter been kep' without food for weeks, as some 'as been in ship-wrecks and the yaller fever. I knowed a party once as eat three pounds of beef sausages arter a operation, as he got over thro' drinkin' off a tumbler of musted and water, as 'is wife 'ad mixed for a lodger as 'ad come 'ome in licker, as 'er 'usban' thort were egg flip a-standin' by 'is bed-side between the lights, and tossed it off, as proved a safety walve agin them sausages for 'im.

But as to a tunnel under the sea, why, they've got to do it fust, as would no doubt be a short cut to them forrin parts, as leads to everywhere, but ain't so easy done as said; the same as the railroad to Injier, as would be a real blessin' to mothers like Mrs. Pelter, to 'ave only seven days from Brompton to Bombay, as 'ave got five sons and two dorters, all married to the officers in the Injin army, as it

breaks 'er 'eart to 'ave to part with them when their furblows is out and they goes back, tho' they do send all their offsprings 'ome for 'er to take care on, as is nine already, with them Aryers nusses, as nearly drives 'er mad, wot with both dorters and dorters-in-law wantin' to be 'rote to every week, and always a-findin' fault with everythink as she's done for 'em, likewise their mothers, as is always a-droppin' in on 'er, and then 'rites out and makes mischief. They won't lend a 'elpin' 'and with the children to take one or two on 'em, tho' well to do; and poor Mrs. Pelter can't say a word for 'er boy's sake, as she dotes on, tho' she'll never take a fardin off 'em, as is wot keeps 'er that poor, tho' a 'ansome income, as she told me with 'er own lips as she couldn't afford a sealskin jacket two winters ago, nor yet a fire in 'er bedroom, not as I considers that any loss, as is a thing I can't abear myself, as always gives me a start in goin' out with a suddin drop, and looks wretched wakin' up in the mornin', let alone the dirt as it makes, partikler in 'avin' the sweeps, as is a thing I'm thankful to say I've not 'ad in my bedroom since arter Liza was born, thro' not 'avin' 'ad a day's illness, no more than Brown, as is 'ard on seventy, and yet as 'arty a man as you'd see at fifty, thro' never 'avin' nothink to 'ale with 'im, as lives a reg'lar life, and always 'ave done.

I don't think in forty year ever I knowed 'im

come 'ome even smilin' but once, as wasn't 'is fault; at least, he didn't say so, but others as was with 'im did, thro' 'avin' bad licker at a waygoose, as is a 'eavy thing, as he went to, like a bean-feast. I were nearly pisened at one myself thro' new rum, as I took a sip on arter Scotch ale, as is a thing I can't abear.

For some things that tunnel will be a good thing, sich as gettin' the fashuns quick; and as to parties a-talkin' about the French a-comin' thro' it to conker us, it's a deal more likely as Queen Wictorier will 'ave to send 'er Wolunteers thro' it jest to put down one of them riverlutions in Paris, or drive out old Beastmark when next he comes to bully the French, or even the Rooshins, as our reg'lar troops would be too strong to send agin, and even the Wolunteers would 'ave to 'ave blank cartridges, so as not to blow 'em all to ribbins.

For my part, I shouldn't mind livin' at Dover or Folkestone, if there was twenty tunnels under my feet, cos if any of them forriners was to come thro' in too great crowds the perlice would shet the gates in their face, and send 'em back to their own 'aunts in double quick time, so as they shouldn't never overrun England, as is all werry well in their way, but we don't want too many on 'em to get in ours.

My dear mother well remembered the Tems

Tunnel fust bein' started, as the water come in unespected, and werry nigh drownded the lot, as was a-goin' to dine at the bottom of the Tems, as I suppose were a-goin' to be a fish dinner, as is the place for to 'ave whitebait and eels cort fresh, the same as Greenwich, likewise Blackwall, when I was a gal, as is done up now, thro' the railway 'avin' run into the Brunswick Tavern and took the premises, as is things I don't care for myself, tho' we 'ad a cook at Lady Wittles' as could fry 'em that dry as they wouldn't sile the napkin as they was laid on, tho' the pan were full of bilin' lard to the brink.

But, law! there ain't the fish in the Tems as there did used to be afore gasworks and steamers, as 'ave drove 'em all out to sea. Not as ever I cared much for flounders, as did used to be cort orf Battersea Bridge; and as to them other river fishes, as the Jews is so fond on, they're nothink but bones and mud; and 'ow any one could set in a punt all day off Ditton, a-waitin' for a bite, puzzles me.

Not but wot 'Amton Court is a lovely spot, leastways did used to be afore railways, as 'ave spilte everythink, thro' a-bringin' them crowds, as I'm sure if ever there was a bear-gardin broke loose, it's Bushey Park of a Bank 'Ollyday, or about Whitsuntide, as I've see goin's on as would make a Kaffir blush, and no Zulu wouldn't suffer in 'is family. Ah! it's pity as parties forgets the old sayin'

about bein' merry and wise, as brings about a deal of misery, and ain't rational enjoyment, as the sayin' is. It's a pity for parties to get a-drinkin', as leads to riots and confusion, as often ends in the station-'ouse, like Brown's own nephew, as 'ad been in a boat up the Lee, and knocked us up in the middle of the night to bail 'im out, thro' avin' ended in a fight at 'Ackney Wick. So Brown says to the perlice in 'is night-shirt, out of the opin winder, "If my nephew likes to get 'isself into 'ot water, he may stop there till the mornin' for me to bail 'im out;" and so he did, as was a lesson to him, cos Brown got 'im out the fust thing, so as he should be at 'is office in time and not lose 'is character thro' a black eye, the same as Charley Warner arter the Darby, as were 'ard lines, for he 'adn't been within miles of Hepsom, leastways he said he'd been at 'Endon, and 'it 'is eye agin the mantelpiece in stoopin' to get 'is shoes in the dark to go down and let 'is brother in, who'd been out on the loose, and come 'ome that tight as he knocked 'im down on the mat the moment as the door were open, and he let 'im in, as he wanted to do on the quiet, thro' the father bein' serous, and didn't 'old with races nor nothink of that sort, as always 'ad them boys in by nine o'clock, leastways thort so, as went up to bed like lambs as reg'lar as clockwork, and every light out by ten; but there was other things out

besides the lights, for them boys did used to go down agin without their shoes and get out by the washus winder, as they'd made run that smooth as it didn't make a sound, as wouldn't be in agin often till three or four in the mornin', as in course ruined their 'ealth; and one as they did used to call Kit, he died, and both the others run away, and the poor mother, as was a poor snivellin' kind of a thing, as were bullied by 'er 'usban' into the werge of the grave, but berried 'im in the hend.

No doubt this 'ere tunnel under the sea will be a tough job, as in course they're obliged to look out for to keep the stratem, as they calls it, cos if they was to run off the line either side, they'll go slap into the sea; but for my part, I'd rather 'ave a bridge of balloons, or somethink like that, cos in course if you tied a lot of balloons altogether, so as to get 'em on the string, as the sayin' is, why, they must keep together, and not go a-flyin' all up and down the Channel, like that poor Member of Parlymint, as were blowed out to sea, no one knows where, and never 'eard on no more, as it were thortless in 'im to take and go off and leave 'is seat wacant, without so much as sendin' word as he were dead, cos in course nobody can't take that seat till they knows for certin, as wouldn't be manners, if he've only jest turned 'is back for a week or so. 'Ow parties can be sich idjots as to

go up in a balloon without no purwishuns, licks me, as did 'ort to be wittled for all the world like a ship. Fancy, one bottle of sherry among three, as it's no wonder them other two fell out over it, as in course did 'ort to have been 'arf a gallon of brandy, tho' whiskey might 'ave done as a makeshift, as is werry 'orful to think of that poor feller a-fallin' in the sea, and kep' a-floatin' ever so long, or droppin' a top of a 'igh mounting, as would 'ave to starve to death all the same, cos he couldn't live on the mounting hash, or anythink like that, tho' there is trees, as bread grows on, and in course we all knows as pertaters is roots, not as he could cook 'em, unless it were a burnin' mounting as he fell upon, as I'm afeard no sich luck, poor feller, as 'ave been up Wesuvius myself, but shouldn't care to cook by it, any more than over thousans of boxes of lucifers set a-blazin', as the sulphur would smother you, let alone the flames a-ketchin' your gownd, not as them hairynorts as they calls 'em, wears anythink like that. Any'ow it's werry sad, not but wot you're werry much safer on dry ground, for I'm sure streets ain't safe to cross nowheres without a perlicemen at your elber, as is wot every one can't 'ave for to lead you.

I'm sure it's disgraceful the bits of boys as is trusted with 'orses, as is downright murder, and tho' them 'ansom cabs is splendid drivers, they in

gen'ral pulls up arter runnin' into any one, all but that willin as killed the young man on the Tems Embankment, in the cab along with 'is sweet'art, a-comin' from the play, as must be a stony-'earted willin not to stop and see if he could give 'im any 'elp, but in course he only thort of gettin' into trouble 'isself, as is the way of the world, the same as 'appened to me, jest close agin Grov'nor Square, a-comin' into town one evenin', arter spendin' the day along with Mrs. Childers, as I 'adn't done over twenty years ago, as is a old friend of mine, thro' bein' in the laundry line, like my dear mother, as 'ave got a fine business out 'Ounslow way, and come in along with the body linen, as she sends 'ome of a Friday to the fust families, as likes 'em clean on Saturday. I'm sure that old Johnson 'ave drove Mrs. Childers' tilt cart man and boy over forty year, and as steady as old Time, as the sayin' is, as did used to be 'arf a pint at 'Ammersmith Broadway and another at the "Load of Ay," as did used to stand in the middle of the Kensin'ton Road, close agin the Park railin's, and were cleared 'ouse and all, with the 'ay and the troughs all swep away for to widen the road jest about the time of the Great Exybishun, as they called it, as is all altered now, with them barracks rebuilt, and a many others pulled down, along with Oliver Crummle's old postin' 'ouse, as stood oppersite 'em, and were a low 'ouse,

tho' sometimes Mrs. Childers and Johnson did used to 'ave their 'arf pints there.

The only drawback agin Johnson were 'is bein' stone deaf, and blind with one eye, not as it mattered to 'is drivin', cos the old 'orse were blind with both eyes, but knowed 'is way to every customer's airy gate in the dark, and never went better than a London fog, as you might cut with a knife, and that thick as you couldn't see thro' your 'and before you.

I shouldn't never 'ave thort of comin' in by that cart but for Mrs. Childers, with seven baskets of linen behind, a-perswadin' me, as she said was mostly fine things, so didn't way 'eavy, nor yet force up the sharfs. What with me and Mrs. Childers in front, and with Johnson a-settin' on the splash board, as in course kep' the cart level, tho' I must say as I were a-bulgin' werry much over the side of the seat thro' Mrs. Childers 'avin' of 'er two little grandchildren wedged in between 'er and me, as is both fleshy children, specially the gal, as won't set still a minit, and kep' on a-scrapin' your shin bones. I would not 'ave come in that cart if I knowed as Mrs. Childers were a-goin' to pick them children up at their mother's door, as lives at Turnem Green, thro' 'er 'usban' bein' a bootcloser, as requires a deal of light, and always a early riser, a-sayin' as the fresh hair would do 'em good.

We got up into town werry well, escept thro' the shores bein' all up close agin the Dook of Wellinton's corner, as the perlice nearly 'ad me twice over the side of the cart, thro' seizin' of the 'orse's 'ead, as made 'im back on to the pole of an omblibus as stove in the back of the cart, as it's a mussy I were not a-settin' on, as I should 'ave been with a chair, if the weight on me 'adn't nearly lifted the 'orse, sharfs and all, up into the hair, when I got in, so 'ad to come to the front, as Johnson would 'ave it were only that hanimal's temper, as he showed by kickin' about 'is legs wiolent thro' bein' lifted off the ground that suddin with 'is girths that tight as should 'ave kicked agin myself.

We turned up 'Amilton Place to avoid Park Lane, as were that narrer thro' the Duchess of Glo'ster a-protrudin' a one side, as they didn't like to widen agin 'er will, thro' bein' own aunt to Queen Wictorier, and 'adn't thort of throwin' open 'Amilton Place, as did used to be that quiet, and a "cool de sack," as the French calls it, with trees at the end and a place where old swells as 'ad retired from bisness did like to live, thro' there bein' no thurrerfare, nor yet busses nor carts, as is why Lord Eldin did used to live there, as set on the Woolsack under King George, as my dear mother did used to wash, as 'ad run away with my lady, as were always a little bit flighty, but a good wife for all that, and werry savin'

in 'er way; some said as she were near thro' 'avin' known poverty, and as coals was coals, as is why she wouldn't 'ave no fire in the drorin' room, as 'er own maid told my dear mother, tho' she'd sit a-shiverin' there in a low-neck dress and short sleeves, and not a bit of scarf over 'er old shoulders, so as to make believe as she felt it too warm for a fire, as is wot she told the Prince Regent, as called in, and stopped to take pot luck with 'er and Lord Eldin, as were liver and bacon, and 'ad pints of porter from the pub round the corner, as the Prince said as he 'adn't never relished nothink like it in 'is life afore, as in course showed as he'd get that best sarce as is 'unger, tho' a sharp thorn to a Prince, as in gen'ral can't get liver and bacon till Friday or Saturday.

All them swells 'ave been drove away from 'Amilton Place by them busses as runs to Wictorier, and the "Royal Oak" 'as even double winders, don't smother the noise on, nor yet wood pavements subdoo.

Well, all of us in that cart got close on Grovenor Square, when wot should whip round the corner but a 'ansom cab full of a young man and 'is baggidge, all piled up aperiently in a 'urry to get to the railway, as were the way to Injier.

He come round the corner like the dust as he kicked up, ketched the wheel of the cart with 'is

sharfs as snapped off, and sent us all a-flyin' about the place. I give myself up for lost, and so I should 'ave been if I 'adn't laid 'old of Johnson's 'air, as he wears long, thro' bein' a follerer of Joanna Soutchcoat, as he espects will come agin and dror 'im up to 'evan by it; not as he could 'ave took me for 'er a-doin' it, at least I shouldn't say so, for he 'owled like a wild beast, and says, "Dam it, let go," as wouldn't be langwidge to take any one to 'evan with.

It's lucky as I pulled over a basket of fine things with me, as broke them two children's falls, as was 'oldin' on to the basket. As to that party in the cab, he weren't a-lookin' forward to goin' to 'evan, leastways he wished us all in the other place, a-sayin' as he should miss 'is train. As to that cabman, he'd 'ave drove on but for me a-ketchin' 'old of the rein as turned the cart slap agin the cab wheel, as a-comin' off made that party use langwidge wuss than ever, as he were gettin' into another cab as come a-rushin' up, and werry nigh went over me, a-layin' 'elpless on the broad of my back, with two baskets of linen on my chest, and both them children a-settin' on my limbs.

I must say as I do not think as that perlice showed proper feelin' in a-callin' on me not to be a obstruckshun, a-stoppin' the thurrerfare, a-sayin', "Jump up, old gal," and yet never a-offerin' to

pick me up, as 'ad to roll over and over, and get to the kerb, as I set on reg'lar bewildered, and Mrs. Childers and Johnson both a-sayin' as it were my fault thro' a-settin' so far over the side of the cart, as made it lose its balance, as that cabman swore as he see me ketch 'old of Johnson's rein, as turned the 'orse, cos as there was more of me out of the cart than in it, as in course were only my dress a-bulgin' out, as were blowed out by the wind, thro' bein' a muslin.

I must say as I do wish as that cabby 'ad drove away, wheel or no wheel, for of all the bothers as it were a-persecutin' 'im, and only over things as 'ad been pitched into the mud, and 'ad to be got up over agin, and as to Mrs. Childers' front, as were lost thro' the string a-breakin' in 'er fall, it were only seven-and-sixpence, thro' bein' them curls cut short round the face, as they calls mow-'air, all across the forred, as looks formal in my opinion, tho' always wore it wider in 'er night-cap, and told me Childers always said as she looked more like a angel in it by night than by day, not as he knowed any more about angels than wot he'd see painted for a sign be'ind St. Clemin's Church when a boy, as is all down now along with Temple Bar, as no doubt the church will foller, to make room for them great 'ulkin' Law Courts, as is a deal more in the way than ever Temple Bar were, I'm sure, as is

where they say as Dr. Johnson did used to worship, up in the gallery, thro' bein' one of the 'Igh Church party in them days, as were always for King James, as some called a old Pertender, and Brown, he always says as he were a old bear, as bullied everybody, and were inflicted with the evil, as Queen Ann touched 'im for, but didn't cure 'im.

The fallin' out of that cart weren't nothink, but I'm sure I must 'ave a charmed life, as the sayin' is, for wot with waitin' at the perlice court two days, and then the civil haction for damage done to the 'orse and cart, let alone the crumpled linen, why, it was weeks as we 'ad to wait afore it were tried, and then the lawyer got that confused thro' Mrs. Childers a-talkin' that wild, as he put down as the cab 'ad been and knocked out Johnson's eye, as well as blinded the old 'orse. Mrs. Childers, she's one of 'em as is always a-talkin' about standin' on 'er rights and actin' on 'er principles, as is in course werry right, but she needn't 'ave took and swore in opin court as the 'orse were only short-sighted, as Johnson 'ad cort of 'im, or 'im of Johnson, and then to put me in the box for that wippin'-snappin' lawyer to take and chaff me blind.

Cos when he asked me 'ow long I'd knowed that 'orse by sight,

I says, "Never, my Lord, 'avin' see 'im afore he

were blind, 'ow should I know 'im by sight, tho' I've 'eard say——"

The judge he ups in a reg'lar rage, "Never mind wot you've 'eard say, my good 'oman, as is no hevidence."

"Well," I says, "my Lord, then if I must speak the truth——"

Up jumps that other lawyer, as were agin us, and says

"My good 'oman, do you knows you're on your oath?"

I says, "I don't care wot I'm on."

Says the judge, a-lookin' ten thousin daggers at me, "Witness, if you are one of them unhappy people as don't believe in a Supreme Bein', don't parade your atroshus sentyments."

I says, "Excuse me, my Lord, I were a-goin to say as oath or no oath I'd speak the truth."

"Oh!" says the young lawyer, a-smirkin', "truth or no truth, you'll swear to it all the same."

I says, "In course I will; as is accordin' to wot Queen Wictorier's orders is."

Says the judge, "You did ort to be ashamed of yourself to dare to drag Her Majesty's name in to support your perjery. I regret to see a person of your age and appearance bein' so lost to all sense of decency."

I were that took a-back at bein' called a person

without no decency, as 'ad no sense of nothink, in opin court, that I thought I should 'ave dropped, and 'eld on to the rail in front of me for support.

The judge, he kep' a-glarin' at me, when up jumps another lawyer and says, "Mrs. Brown, the celebrated Mrs. Brown, I believe."

Says the judge, "Escuse my ignorance in askin' the question, but for what are you celebrated, Mrs. Brown."

He spoke that sneery and jeery like as I should 'ave liked to 'ave give 'im one for 'isself back, but in course I knowed my place better than that, considerin' as he were Queen Wictorier's own representation, so I only says, arter stoppin' to corf a bit, "Not a-knowin', my Lord, I cannot say."

Says one of them lawyers, "Now Mrs. Brown, attend to me."

I says, "By all means."

He says, "You have sworn that the horse was born blind."

I says, "Never! Why, I never 'ad 'im from the month or anythink like that, as is 'ow you judge, cos I well remembers little Sam Parker as were born blind as any kitten, and nobody didn't know it till he didn't give no start when a paper all blazin' were flashed in front of 'im, and then 'is poor mother 'oped as he were only a-dosin', so didn't take no notice."

Says the judge all of a sudden, "Good 'evans, wot is little Sam Parker to do with it, won't nobody stop that old 'oman's tung; wot is your point, brother Shuffles?"

Says that young lawyer, "My Lud, I wish to pint out to the jury 'ow loose this good 'oman's statements are. She has distinctly sworn the driver was on 'is right side tho' the horse were blind and the driver only one-eyed. Now I ask 'ow are we to reconcile sich statements with the fact as she were seated only arf in the cart?"

"Well!" says Brown, as 'ad been a-listenin' to what I were a-tellin' Mrs. Perkin, "I should like to see the notes of this 'ere trial of your'n, for it sounds to me as if you was all drunk together."

I says, "Mr. Brown, don't forget as ladies is implicated, let alone insultin' a judge and jury as represents Queen Wictorier, and not twelve o'clock in the day, and all as I've got to say, I'm sure if it were my last dyin' speech and confession, as they did used to sell under the werry gallus as the party were a-goin' to expatriate 'is crimes on, it couldn't be more true. As in my opinion, they didn't ort to make everyone make and not let parties tell them orful lies about bein' innercent up to the last."

Says Brown, "They 'opes to bounce some fools into believin' 'em; but 'ow about Mrs. Childers' action?"

"Well," I says, "I didn't wish to illude in no way to the action of Mrs. Childers' cart, as give me a severe shock, for I bounded three times up in the hair like a cricket-ball a-comin' into collusion with old Johnson, as walked consequentially all a one side, with a limp to 'is dyin' day.

"As to Mrs. Childers, she never would get into that cart agin thro' the bottom 'avin' come out on, with the axletree a-breakin', as give 'er a shock a-seein' both 'er grandchildren rollin' all over mud among the fine things, as it cost a lot to get up agin, and only got five pounds damages, as that cabby couldn't pay, thro' a large family, as will teach 'im a lesson not to drive on 'is 'rong side at that rate round a corner. In course he swore we run into 'im, and he certingly were on Johnson's blind side, as laid it all to me, a-sayin' arter the trial that me a-ketchin' 'old of one rein 'ad turned the old 'orse slap on to the cab, and as it was lucky it were dark, or the cabby'd 'ave see me in the act, as many a one 'ad 'ad penil servitude for less.

"It was all that old waggerbone's cheek, thro' me a-smellin' 'im of rum, as is my opinion were at the root of it, altho' he 'ad took the pledge to a pint and a arf a day, and no sperrits. But I must say as our laws wants alterin' in a-many ways, for if I were to lose my last farden I'd never persecute anyone as took it."

Brown says, "Right you are, mother, as shows your sense."

I know as Brown meant jeers, but were not a-goin' to ask 'im, cos I never will incourage 'im when he's in one of 'is sourcrostick 'umours, as puts me out.

But as to Miss Pilkinton a-sayin' as that tunnel would destroy our insulent possession, I don't see it, for tho' not over fond of forriners and their ways, as is insultin' enuf, I wouldn't stop 'em a-comin' like the Merrykins and Horsetrailians is a-doin' by the Chinese.

And for that matter, for the life on me, I can't see wot difference comin' thro' a tunnel would make escept sea-sickness, as they do say baffled old Bony-party when he got that time to Boolone; but all as I've got to say is, let 'em come in welcome, sick or no sick, as long as they be'aves theirselves when they gets 'ere; but if they gives any trouble, or tries on any of their communeyard ways, out they goes, jest like Bradlor, or anyone else as don't obey the rules af the 'ouse as they're stoppin' in.

In course we knows the dangers of lettin' for-riners be too much at 'ome, and as old King George said, as he'd lay 'is 'ead on the block afore he'd let in the Catherlics, but they was let in, and ain't done no 'arm as yet, any more than the Jews, as it's my opinion as people's all werry fond of gettin' up

a 'owl over things a-goin' to 'appen as they don't know nothink about, cos, as I were a-sayin' to Mrs. Perkin, I remembers well when a child a old gentleman as they said were a priest, a-livin' in Battersea, as my grandmother told me when she were quite a little gal, she 'eard of one a-bein' 'anged, and 'er father, as come away from Merryker when Washintin turned agin King George, 'ad known one or two put to death over in New England, as they calls it, as were set up by parties as wasn't allowed to 'old their own religion in England, so run away to Merryker, and then when they got there pitched into all them as they didn't agree with, as is wot they called liberty of conshence, as is a pint as Brown is reg'lar death on, as is 'ow I 'ave pinted out to more than one 'ow they was inconsistent over it, as I'm sure I knowed Mrs. Welford, as belonged to some free sex, she wouldn't let 'er servant gal go to 'er own chapel thro' bein' Hirish, as would go, when she'd got the breakfast ready, and left the kittle on the bile, as put Mrs. Welford out dreadful, a-incouragin' 'er son Tom to lay in bed, and 'ave 'is breakfast brort 'im, as that girl wouldn't take it 'im up. I says, "Quite right too, a great 'ulkin' feller, without even a cold in 'is 'ead," as made Mrs. Welford that short with me that I 'ad to give 'er a bit of my mind. As to liberty of conshence, as means everybody doin' as he

pleases, that's the same all the world over pretty nigh, escept in France, where you mustn't be religious or they'll turn you out; but then you never can tell what the French is up to, and in my opinion it's better to 'ave one tunnel, as they must all come through, and can be checked jest like Waterloo Bridge did used to be, and not 'ave 'undreds of steamboats as might bring over troops by the thousand all round, as our perlice couldn't be everywhere's at once to stop em. Even if we did 'ave the Volunteers out, they couldn't be a-drivin' em away from Margit and Ramsgit the same time, nor yet stoppin' them landin' at 'Astings and Brighton. So arter all the tunnel is best, for I considers it would be a deal more trouble for us to 'ave a 'underd thousin ship-fulls of Frenchmen at Dover all sea-sick all at once, as we must let the poor creaturs land, than one tunnel full, as we could blow up in a minit, if their intentions wasn't 'onerable. As is 'ow I come to persuade Miss Pilkinton's landlady, Mrs. Wottles, not to let 'er parlers to that Germin, as I had my suspicions on, tho' he were a traveller in the amber pipe-stem line, as were brort there to tea by a friend, and played on the flute while Melia Wottles played the pianer, and Miss Pilkinton took and tried to sing "Pretty Mockin' Bird," as I see that Germin were a-mockin' at 'er all the time behind her back, and called 'er

'is "pretty mockin' turtle bird" in partin', and if that old idjot didn't take and go off into 'sterrics on the bottom stair in goin' up to bed, a-sayin' he 'ad whispered soft nothinks to 'er. I says, "Then you calls baccy nothink," and couldn't 'ardly keep my temper, but never even alluded to the subjec arter that evenin' when I'd told Miss Pilkinton not to be a fool, and stopped Mrs. Wottles a-lettin' that feller the rooms, as I thort she agreed to; and I'm sure it were months arter as I 'eard thro' Melia that he came to tea two or three times a week for the next two months, and then never turned up no more, arter borrerin' over two pounds of Miss Pilkinton, and 'er silver watch, as he pertended as he'd get put in order thro' its bein' Swiss, and 'im 'avin' a cousin in the line as were a Dutchman.

He got money out of Mrs. Wottles thro' a-pertendin' as he'd put it in a lottery as she might make twenty thousand pounds out on it, as were 'ow 'is father 'ad made a fortune, arter bein' ruined, and bought back 'is estates, as were a wonderful castle at the werry bottom of the Rhine, close agin where it falls into the Rhone, as is the loveliest spot in the world.

Brown, he were present as Melia were tellin' me, and says to me, "It's wonderful 'ow people will believe any lie as is told 'em with a bounce. But," he says to Melia, "why, you did ought to 'ave

known, with all your School Boards, as the Rhone don't come near the Rhine, and as they runs different ways."

She said she thought it were 'rong; but Miss Pilkinton said, "As the Baron must know best where 'is own father's chatto were sitivated, as might 'ave been in a tunnel somewheres about."

I must say as I don't 'old with no tricks in tunnels myself, cos I can't a-bear feelin' as I'm in danger, and in the dark, too, as were 'ow me and Mrs. Warring nearly come to a untimely end in Liverpool, a-goin' by the rail up to Warrinton to spend the day with 'er sister, as did used to be a tunnel jest out of Liverpool.

We 'adn't much of a day at Warrinton, as we left all right in a third-class carridge without no lamp, as come to a stand-still all of a suddin. We was in a compartment alone, so in course couldn't ask no questions.

So I says, "It's my opinion as we're got unattached."

She says, "Oh, don't say so, Mrs. Brown; for, tho' you may not care for your 'usban, I dotes on mine."

I says, "Don't talk foolishness. I means we've got loose from the train, as 'ave gone on and left us."

That woman she took on that orful, a-shriekin' like mad, till the tunnel rung agin.

I didn't know what to do, for I were frightened about 'er thro' not a-knowin' for certin wot 'er reasons was. So I says, "For mussy sake, don't make that row, or they'll send a injin thro' to see wot's up, as might smash us."

She gives a oller groan, and up she jumps, a-sayin' we should be found out, and afore I could stop 'er she were out of the carridge.

I says, "Mrs. Warring, mum, pray stop, as may be a-rushin' on to certin death."

She didn't make no anser, and I never was so frightened, a-thinkin' as she'd been and fell in a fit under the wheel, as the least motion on would squash 'er up piecemeal, as the sayin' is.

So I says, "I must get out and see wot's become of 'er," and I opens the door; and arter 'oldin' on like mad for ever so long on the 'andle, I drops on to the ground.

I've 'eard say as Tarturis is a dark place, but it can't be nothink to that tunnel, as were full of puddles and smoke enuf to pison you.

I calls, "Mrs. Warring, where 'ave you got to?" and on I creeps, a-gropin' along, when all of a suddin I 'ears a somethink a-comin' with a puff. For the life on me I couldn't say which way it were comin', so draws myself up agin the wall, when I 'eard a shriek as made me jump out of my skin, and then come another.

I says, "It's the express, and we are lost!"

I really were a-thinkin' more about that Mrs. Warring than myself, a-knowin' as she were the mother of four, if not five.

Jest then I 'eard a noise and a jerk, and away went that carridge as I'd jest got out on, as I were standin' by still.

"Don't leave me behind!" I 'ollers. But, law! my words was drownded in the darkness; and there I was in the dark, a-makin' sure as Mrs. Warring 'ad come to 'er untimely end, as is in course wot we must all espect, tho' not like that on a day's pleasure, never knowin' wot a day may bring forth.

I never were so reg'larly nonplussed, as the sayin' is, for tho' not afraid, I had my misgivin's.

I says to myself, "They must miss us when the train stops at the station," and yet I didn't like not to get 'elp for poor Mrs. Warring.

So arter a bit I makes up my mind as I'd walk back, keepin' close to the wall, as were uneven ground. All of a suddin I come upon a gaslight, and if I weren't close to the station, and come upon a young man as were doin' somethink to a wheel of a truck.

I give 'im a touch with my umbreller, as made 'im turn suddin.

He gave a start, and says, "Oh, the devil!"

I says, "I am not; but wotever are you larfin' at?"

He says, "Wherever have you been?"

I says, "Through the tunnel."

"Never!" he says. "Did you walk thro'?"

"No," I says, "went thro' in a carridge, as stuck fast."

He says, "Who put you in that carridge?"

I says, "No one; we got in ourselves."

He says, "More shame for you!"

I says, "I wants to see wots become of Mrs. Warring."

He says, "Jem Warrin's wife? Oh, she knowed 'er way about, and 'ave cut 'er lucky for fear of bein' cort."

I says, "Wotever do you mean?"

"Why," he says, "you've been on the pass dodge, as ain't allowed, and you'll get into trouble, I can tell you."

I says, "I don't know nothink of the pass dodge, as 'ave paid my money to Mrs. Warring for second-class return, to go for a treat to spend the day at Warrinton, and a nice day I've 'ad, and third class both ways."

"Well," he says, "I'll show you out on the quiet, cos I don't want to get a fellow-servint into trouble, nor you fined forty shillin's, and I don't think as Warrin' knows anythink about 'is old gal's wagaries."

I says, "She ain't old, tho' in course old enuf to know better, as the sayin' is, to let me in like that, and lead me sich a dance."

Well, that young man he led me round by where a lot of coals was all stacked up, and then let me out by a side door, and when I got to where we was a-stoppin' in Lord Nelson Street, and knocked at the door, the gal as opened it gave a scream, as brort out the landlady, as said, "Mussy on us, Mrs. Brown! any one would think as you'd come back out of your grave."

When I see myself in the glass, I werry nigh were knocked back'ards, for I were a sweep from 'ead to foot, and that object, as I busted into tears, and dropped on the sofy a reg'lar flummox, all of a 'eap, as nothink in this world ever saved my life but the little as they give me 'ot and strong, as Mrs. Pelton, as were the landlady's name, 'eld like a pocket pistol to my 'ead, as she said she wouldn't never take away agin till I'd swallered every drop on it, as I do believe that woman would 'ave kep' 'er word if she'd see me a-stranglin', as I werry nigh did with the last mouthful as I gulped down, and then went straight to bed, without the strength 'ardly to wash my face and 'ands, as were that colour as give Brown that orful turn when he come up to bed, thro' a-thinkin' me in a fit and black in the face, so 'urried out for a doctor, as he brort

back with 'im, as must 'ave been a ignorant hass, for all as he said was, "She'd better sleep it off."

It's lucky as I were that sound off, as I didn't 'ear 'im, or he'd 'ave 'ad a bit of my mind pretty straight, and 'ot too for that matter, with Brown a-larfin' like mad in the mornin' a-sayin' as Mrs. Pelton, 'ad give me a overdose of 'er medsin, as were not a wineglass altogether, as not bein' bilin' made it fly to the 'ead, specially as I 'adn't 'ad neither tea nor supper.

It does put me out when Brown gives in to that chaffy way in illudin' to me over sperrits, as did ort to be looked on as physics.

I considers old Scotch whiskey a fine thing if took at proper times, as Queen Wictorier 'erself might take a sip on the last thing up in the 'Ighlands, with a cold in 'er royal 'ead, without bein' none the wuss in the mornin'. Not but wot I thinks as that minister as we met at an 'otel up agin Dundee overdid it in takin' sixteen tumblers 'twixt tea and bed-time, tho' he might require it thro' bein' the Sabbath, as he'd been conductor of services, and pumped 'isself out thro' twice, as didn't know 'ow to conduct 'isself, tho' he'd preached a 'our and 'arf each time, besides readin' and prayin'. Leastways so they told me, as set under 'im, as I'm sure I should never 'ave kep' my eyes open arf the time, over the unfulfilled profits,

and the losses of the Ten Tribes, as he told me he could prove was the Scotch people, as would gain the battle of Armygeddin jest afore goin' to bed. I says, "I 'opes so with all my 'art, if it will do 'em any good."

"Ah!" he says, a-tryin' to light the 'rong end of 'is candle, "outer darkness, outer darkness," and then called me 'is lovely Bathsiba, and went off smilin' as I would not 'ave trusted with a candle in my 'ouse any more than Mrs. McNurd, as were a little on 'erself and 'elped 'im across the landin', and give 'im a push into 'is room, as she mistook the door on, and sent 'im flyin' on the bed as a serous commercial 'ad been in over two 'ours fast asleep, as caused words; and the last as I see of that minister were 'im seated on the door-mat, a-rubbin 'is back, aperiently in pain, and decidedly in licker, as 'ad been a-ravin' agin Popery, and turned ghastly pale over the Jeserists, as he said were a under-minin' of the country.

"Ah!" says Miss Pilkinton, "and right he was, for I've 'eard parties say as they're all at the bottom of this tunnel."

"Well, then," I says, "they've only got to keep 'em there, and it's all right."

"Ah!" says Miss Pilkinton, "you don't knows their depth."

I says, "They must be deep if they've under-

minded that, and I don't know nothink about Jeserists, as I never see but one, as were French certingly, the mildest party as ever I see."

But a-returnin' to King Cetewayo, as tho' a savidge, don't eat one another up; as for my part, I don't see as it's much wuss than 'eatin' of yourself to death, as I've knowed parties do in London.

As to Cetewayo, he don't get no chance, cos they lives werry simple, them Zulus over there, as is chiefly mealies, as is like pertaters to the Hirish, only don't grow underground, but more like Geerusalem artichokes. No doubt now as he don't 'ave no wars a-goin' on, nor yet no parties to punish, Cetewayo feels lonesome, and wants a change, the same as Lady Gobbleton, as were widder to Sir Samuel, as 'is own father always called Samivel, as was fellmongers in the Boro, and as ignorant as dirt, and in my opinion 'er ladyship weren't much of a 'and at ritin', as is the reason as she 'ad Miss Withysby to read to 'er, as were nearer fifty than forty, as always seemed to think 'erself a injured party, thro' bein' left a 'orfin so young, as 'ave only berried 'er ma six months, at ninety-four, as says she were the youngest, tho' I 'ave my doubt.

Well, she come in to tea full of King Cetewayo a-comin' 'ere, a-sayin' as 'er and Lady Gobbleton would miss 'im, thro' a-goin' the Grand Toor.

I says, "Wot, all round the world?"

"No," she says, "only to Margit and round Thanet, as is a 'ighland."

I says, "I don't see nothink werry grand about that, and I do 'ope as they won't go a-takin' King Cetewayo all over England, nor yet let 'im see a map as'll pint out to 'im the size on it, when you comes to look at it by the size of Afriker, as might jest pass the word over to 'is native blacks not to be bullied.

Mrs. Bulpit, she knows a deal about Afriker, thro' 'avin' 'ad a uncle in the British Museum, as dusted the mummies, and shed tears when she see Clearpatrer's Needle, as reminded 'er of Sir John Moore, as were shot at Corunner, as were part of Egypt. She's a feelin'-'arted woman, and were that found of cats, as you'd think they was 'er blood relations.

I don't think as savidges as a rule is fond of cats, thro' not 'avin' no cupboards for to incourage mice, and no drains for rats to come up, as bold as brass, and take the werry candle out of the socket, as a aunt of mine were darnin' 'er stockin's by Saturday night, so 'ad to go to bed in the dark.

As for that, savidges always do take to their beds at sunset, like birds a-roostin', and never 'as no lights, except bonfires, as they lights up in goin' to war.

I'm sure when I were a-readin' about this 'ere

Gipshun war, I didn't see no difference between us and King Cetewayo, only he ain't got no ships, nor yet mortars to send six miles, each a-wayin' as much as 'arf a ton of coals, as would be a nice thing to 'ave shot on your 'ousetop, with a bedridden aunt in the top floor, as one chimbly pot pretty nigh shook out of 'er bed, tho' that deaf as she only thort it were a tap at the door, and said, "Come in" quite mild, as if it 'ad took 'er at 'er word, there'd 'ave been an end of 'er bedridin', poor soul, as lived over ninety, as couldn't 'ave 'appened, if she 'ad been King Cetewayo's aunt, for he'd 'ave 'ad 'er put out of 'er misery, with a pole axe, long afore.

Not but wot he's a kind 'art, leastways for a savidge, and 'ave got a werry solim look about 'im; not but wot I 'ave knowed niggers that cheerful as they'd larf and dance by the 'our together; but then they wasn't King Cetewayo, as'll set and see them bare-backed Zulus dance jest as Queen Wictorier will set on 'er throne a-watchin' them 'Ighlanders kickin' up their 'eels, and 'ave their flings afore 'er royal face.

King Cetewayo don't 'old with no free ways, as would like to wear a kilt; not as ever there was sich a thing as a 'Ighland nigger.

I likes to 'ave Miss Spilsby to tea, as is fond o' a good cup, and will set a-sippin' of it to the werry

grounds, as I often gives 'er a little of mine, as Brown gets thro' a friend, and can't be bought not even at the stores, as gets 'er livin' thro' teachin'; not but wot I always makes a excuse about givin' 'er the tea, thro' bein' afeard as I might 'urt 'er feelin's, as is tender, a-knowin' as she's proud and poor, tho' not that overbearin' like Miss Pilkinton, tho' she knows quite as much; and as to all about Cetewayo, she 'ad it at 'er fingers' ends, as the sayin' is, thro' 'avin' read the papers and studied jograffy."

"Ah!" I says to 'er, one day, "you mustn't take all as you reads for gospel, and as to King Cetewayo, even them as 'ave been on the spot, like myself, can't make 'ead nor tail on 'im; cos in course when he speaks some one interrup's, so it is as he says somethink as another party translates; but who is to say whether they says wot he means, or whether he means wot he says, or they knows wot he means, or means to say wot he did mean, there ain't no means of tellin'. Parties calls 'im a savidge, but he knowed all about wessels of war, as he see in 'is bays, tho' they did try to gammon 'im as they was only merchants, and knowed they meant 'arm, for all Sir Bartley Fair could say or do, with a party in the name of Dunn as go-between, as is a sort of mixture of the two; for tho' he's white, he lives like a black, and ain't partikler to a

shade, I should say, from all as I've 'eard of 'is goin's on; tho' they do say now as he 'ave took up the misshunaries, as it's a pity as the misshunaries don't take 'im up."

All I do 'ope is as they won't give King Cetewayo no Hinglish shampain, as is death to a many of them natives, as would like raisin wine better, if not ginger-beer. In course they won't go a-feedin' 'im up in the City, nor nothink like that, cos he'd be a orkard customer among them Aldermen arf screwed with a poultry carver; or if he got 'old of that mace as the Remembrancer carries arf out of the carridge winder, he'd make 'em all remembrancers of 'im. If they wants to entertain 'im in the City, they did ort to brew lots of Kaffir beer, and let 'im sit in the middle of the Royal Exchange, with the Corporation round 'im, as it would be madness to give 'im the full freedom of the City, and 'ave the Christun Minstrels, as never performs out of London, for to amuse 'im; as 'adn't better make none of their nigger jokes at 'im, as he might consider insults, and run a mucker among 'em with 'is umbreller, as would wake 'em up.

I 'ears as Queen Wictorier is a-goin' to 'ave 'im to Osbung, as will be able to keep 'im aboard a barge at anker in the middle of the stream and sail round 'im. All as I do 'ope is, as they'll keep that Salvation Army out of 'is way, cos, I do believe

as he'd consider as they meant to insult 'im, cos he's sharp enuf and knows as they calls the devil a sable majesty, and he'll think as they means 'im, and as they're a-goin' to attack 'is camp, as I wouldn't give much for their chance of gettin' a wictory, specially if they goes out to Afriker and marches up the country they'll get it pretty 'ot all round, I can tell 'em. But really we're a-'avin' too many forriners over 'ere, as I said would all want to be a-comin' when once that Shaw of Persher 'ad been, as weren't no relation of Shaw the Life Guardsman, as fell at Waterloo, as I see the play about at Ashley's with the Dook of Wellinton in knee-breeches and 'ighlows, as didn't look well with cotton stockins at a ball.

With all my travellin' I 'ain't never enjoyed myself more than Cape Town, as is like Margit for takin' of a sail from the end of the jetty, as I stepped aboard as light as a feather without a-lookin' where I was a-steppin', so put my foot in the broad of the back of a gent, as were a-layin' with 'is face down'ards a-readin' "Fun." Up he sprung like a leek and sent me a cropper back'ards into a 'ole party as were a-goin' out for a sail to the Goodwin Sands, as was once a willage all swallowed up in a night.

It were a lovely day, and off we went from Cape Town with the gale, as took us along like steam blowin' off, and thro' me 'avin' got over bein' sea-

sick, I never did feel wot a lovely think a breeze is a-blowin' thro' you. Some parties was orful bad, partikler two parties as was engaged, as both fell out over it. I must say, tho' flustered, I never did enjoy anythink more than that boat, leastways, should have done, only thro' Brown bein' that aggravatin' all the time about me 'avin' killed the man as I'd been and stepped on, as lewanted; it wasn't my fault, for 'owever was I to know as one false step would give anyone their quieters, and I'm sure such a fall back'ards as I got, I'm sure it's a wonder as I wasn't killed dead on the spot, the same as Mrs. Edward's gal Melia, as 'ad a 'ard place close agin the Middlesex 'Ospital, and told for to clean the second floor front winders, and a-settin' on the sell as wasn't a reg'lar sell, or never wouldn't 'ave give way with 'er weight, as were only a wisp to me, and come out that wiolent as must 'ave been instant death, only but for one of the lodgers comin' in sudden, and shet down the winder that sharp on 'er, as werry nigh broke 'er legs off short just above the knee, but saved 'er life, tho' weeks in the 'Ospital, as were close at 'and; and I must say, 'ad I been sent flyin' back-'ards agin that peer, should never 'ave 'eld up my 'ead agin, tho' there's a fine infirmary at Margit for sea-bathin', as is a fine thing for the limbs, but not a broken back.

Not as there's any 'ospitals in Cape Town as is a 'ealthy place, not as I should say as waterin' the streets out of the sewers were 'olesome.

I do believe as King Cetewayo would be quite 'appy if they was to put 'im a punt and let 'im fish off 'Ampton Court, as he might sleep in the 'ot-'ouse, as would soot 'im, and couldn't get at the grapes with a guard over 'im and no ladder, cos he ain't a figger for climbin'.

As to 'is 'avin' killed 'is royal pa and 'is brother, it's the custom of the country, as it did used to be in France, only he's behind the hage.

Miss Pilkinton, as is always a-guessin' and a-wonderin', she says to me, "Mrs. Brown, I wonder 'ow they'll get King Cetewayo about, as thro' not bein' used to ridin' in carridges, might be as ill as parties a-goin' round the Nore 'ave been knowed to be off Gravesend."

"Why," I says, "as to that in course he might go about in a chair, not carried like Guy Fox, but one of them shays roolante, as the French calls 'em, the same as I 'ad last time I went to Paris, for to go about that Trockydeero in, as were that distances as walk I couldn't."

Not but that man as drove weren't as sober as the judges, but must 'ave been a-lookin' the rong way, for he took and sent me with a wiolent shove over the foot of a elderly party as were sufferin'

from gout that wiolent, as he jumped up with a yell, and give my shay such a wiolent drive as knocked it clean off the terrice as we was on, and sent me a-flyin' down a flight of steps slap into a flower-bed, as made them sujorns de weel collar me and turn me out of the place, tho' I 'adn't been there 'arf a 'our, and 'ad to 'obble 'ome the best way as I could, for there weren't a bus to be 'ad for love or money, and as to the cabs, they'd all struck, jest as if they'd been true-born Brittins, as was like their impidence; not as ever any London cabby ever be'aved that insultin' to me like one of them little open fiackers, as I took for a ride in the Bore de Boolone, thro' a-requirin' of a little fresh hair for my 'ead, as was a-akin' with the 'eat. I took 'im by the 'our, and made 'em pay 'im with 'is porebore afore he started, and off we set, and were a-crawlin' along till in passin' of a clock I see it were later than wot I 'ad thought, so 'urried 'im on for fear of bein' late for tea, and I says werry perlite, "Ploo weet, siver play. Je suis fam, and am a-dyin' for my tea." He didn't take no notice, so I says, "If you don't get on quicker I'll summons you."

He says, "Oh! you be blowed." I gave a scream as he went on a-sayin', "Whyever didn't you speak English afore, instead of that gibberish." He says, "My 'orse is tired, so you jest step out and get a bus," as I did accordin', and if

he didn't drive off and leave me, and as all the buses was full it were jest on ten when I did get 'ome, more dead than alive. I dessay if they was to give Cetewayo 'is choice he'd go on the top of a bus, specially if a band was playin', as likes music, partikler the drum, as all Injins dotes on. Miss Pilkinton she says as she'd give the world for to go to court and see 'im in the Queen's drorin' room, as'd make the Princess of Wales smile in 'er sleeves thro' bein' too much the lady to bust out a-larfin' in 'is face.

I do 'ope as he'll set for 'is pictur to Madam Tussor, and be put in the same room along with old Bonyparty, as preaps may be sent out Senteleener to set under them weepin' willers for the rest of 'is life, not but wot in my opinion he's a much better man, and not 'arf such a bully.

No doubt King Cetewayo won't think much of us, escept when he 'ears wot we 'ave to pay for our liberties, as some wants to take away our beer of a Sunday, unless you goes a-travellin', as some considers wrong, so we're in a dead fix, any'ow.

I do 'ope as Parlymint will be over afore he gets 'ere, as would stare in settin' with the Prince of Wales to see one 'onerable member insult the other, nearly as bad as out in Horsetrailier. As I'm sure the Parlymint in Melbung was downright Billingsgit, as comes to fistycuffs.

I rather pities Queen Wictorier with 'avin' Cetewayo to dine and sleep at Winsor, as will be a long evenin', for I don't suppose he could take a 'and at cribbage, tho' they might make 'im understand "Beggar my neighbour," as is a game as most nations plays at, as we're 'avin' a 'and at over in Egypt, as will put on lots of taxes.

Not as it makes any difference wot the money goes for, go it will, as must make old Gladstin scratch 'is 'ead, and no doubt often wishes he could come Cetewayo over us, and order us about; no one dare to call 'im "a vane old man," nor yet "a grand old man," but certingly does look a werry cross old man.

Not as Cetewayo looks mild, cos tho' he may not look as black as thunder, as turns the beer, Gladstin most certingly do. One thing will upset the noble savidge, and that's the weather, as is makin' a many reg'lar savidge, with their crops all spilte, as isn't things as Cetewayo bothers 'is 'ead over, as is 'ow he takes things that calm weather or not, as makes me often think as I ain't quite sure which is best off.

Any'ow, I 'opes as King Cetewayo and Queen Wictorier may 'it it off that friendly as she'll stop 'er people from encroachin' on 'is, and she'll pass the word as they ain't to be molested as long as they be'aves proper, cos the fact is as the savidges

is kep' in better order than the whites, as wants to come the boss all over the place, as can't be allowed any more than if all the niggers in Ingland was to want to be everybody, as is all werry well in their places, specially on the sands, as is the native land of King Cetewayo, as will enjoy 'isself down at Ramsgit, as he'll no doubt wisit durin' 'is stay among us, and shall 'ope to see 'im at Margit myself, as will no doubt remember my figger, thro' 'avin' a royal mem'ry, and seen me go by that often in passin' them ramparts as he were always a-settin' on, as I were a-passin' that Cape Castle, with a sentry and a flag over 'is 'ead in a blankit, as will give 'im a warm welcome, and so will Brown.

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